

New England District spotlights women of  
the New England District team

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# Yankee Voices

## Sympathy

... to the family of Brian Coleman, who passed away March 2. Brian was beloved by his family and was a dedicated member of the Cape Cod Canal Team, where he worked as a Marine Traffic Controller since May 2020.

... to the family of Engineering retiree Mark DeSouza, who passed away March 11. Mark retired from Civil Engineering Section in 2017.

## Congratulations

... to Will Burgess, Knowledge Management, and his wife, Jaime, on the birth of their son, Knox Oliver Burgess, Feb. 28.

## Words worth repeating

"One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first."  
— *Malala Yousafzai*

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it."  
- *Helen Keller*



File photos

## District completes Natick Family Housing Project

The New England District team turned over the keys to the remaining housing units of the Heritage Lane project site at Natick Soldiers System center, Natick, Massachusetts, Feb. 14. The turnover signaled the completion of the \$29.5 million Natick Family housing project and allowed Soldiers and their families to move into the new homes.

A partial turnover of four of the completed houses on General Greene Avenue took place in November. In total, the District and its contractor, Tocci Building Corp. of Woburn, Massachusetts, built 28 townhouses, duplexes and detached housing units and features including parking, a new playground and a basketball court built at Heritage Lane and General Greene Avenue.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place April 20.



# Commander's Corner: Celebrating Women's History Month

by Col. John A. Atilano II  
New England District Commander

Every March we celebrate Women's History Month and it's a time to reflect on and celebrate the many accomplishments women have made throughout our history.

This year's theme is: Providing Healing, Providing Hope. The marches and rallies of the Suffrage Movement have been well-documented, but did you know that in addition to fighting for the right to vote, women were also fighting the 1918 Flu Pandemic and doing their part in serving their country during World War I at the same time? Sounds familiar, right?

While making their case for equal rights, eight million women responded to the Flu Pandemic by volunteering for the American Red Cross. When they weren't volunteering, women continued to make their voices heard, but in a responsible way by wearing masks, social distancing and focusing on petitions rather than holding campaign rallies. I want to make note that during that time, 18 African American nurses were accepted into the Army Nurse Corps and the American Red Cross – organizations that had only admitted white nurses prior to the 1918 events.

As men went off to fight in the war, tens of thousands of women stepped up to join the Women's Land Army to fill those vacant jobs left behind. All the while, they continued to keep their dream of earning their right to vote alive.

Their tireless work didn't go unnoticed. President Woodrow Wilson sent a telegram to the Illinois Suffrage Movement praising their work for Suffrage while making significant contributions during the war effort. The President also addressed the Senate in support for Women's Suffrage saying that the war could not have been fought without women's work during the war.

Fast Forward to today – women won the right to vote, but things are still far from equal. Once again we are in a pandemic and once again women have been forced to make more sacrifices. The lack of day care and schools switching to remote learning has had working mothers struggling to



juggle work and life with kids. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, around 10 million U.S. mothers living with their own school-age children were not actively working in January. That's about 1.4 million more during January 2021. Working mothers are either willingly leaving jobs or are being forced out in extraordinary numbers.

At the New England District, the Senior Leaders and I have tried very hard to come up with a strategy for many of our teammates to be able to balance home and work life with telework and flexible schedules. It's not perfect – not everyone can telework because of the nature of the job – but I have urged, and will continue to urge, supervisors to continue to do what they can to help those who need accommodations.

The pandemic has been a struggle, but there is hope. We have vaccinations against the virus now and the masking and social distancing has helped tremendously in lowering transmissions numbers. I am cautiously optimistic that by the end of the month the numbers will have gone down enough that we can commence with having more people in Concord Park and we can continue towards our journey of a new normal.

Looking back at what women had to go through to come as far as they have, I appreciate and admire their hard work and dedication. The women back then have paved a road from which the women of today can build upon. I am proud to work side-by-side with the women of the New England District team. I encourage everyone to look back at the history of the Suffrage Movement this month, particularly during the 1918-time frame.

Speaking of strong women, Kimberly Baudy-Patterson volunteered and led our Black History Month special emphasis program. Following Kimberly's lead, Ali Atkins reached out to me and volunteered to lead our special emphasis program for Women's History Month. Ali will be sending out similar e-mails that highlight the great contributions of women in history. Thanks Ali!

Additionally, Tammy Turley has been leading the New England District Women in the Workforce Forum. Last year we reviewed the 2020 McKinsey report on women in the workforce. We will conduct a similar session this year to discuss the 2021 McKinsey report. Continuing on this effort, Tammy will be championing a new New England District women's leadership network and will be reaching out to the workforce to determine our needs at New England District.

# New England District spotlights women of the New England District team

**By Albinko Hasic**  
**Public Affairs Office**

In honor of Women's History Month we present our Women In Focus series, highlighting our female employees and their accomplishments. Thank you for your hard work! The ladies in this article represent only a fraction of the women who are on the New England District Team.

**Kimberly Baudy-Patterson (Chief, Budget, Manpower/ Management Branch)**



"I am the District's Finance and Accounting Officer (FAO) but currently serving a one-year detail as the Budget Officer. Both positions reside in the Resource Management Office. My team is responsible for the integrity of the District's Financial System, a proprietary software program called CEFMS (Corps of Engineers Financial Management System). We use CEFMS to send/ accept funds, pay our contractors & vendors, and perform all financial functions. We teach users how to navigate CEFMS and troubleshoot errors, as well as make suggestions to HQ for programmatic changes to enhance user experience and data quality.

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**What she likes most about working for the New England District.**

"There is never a dull moment. Each day brings a new challenge and an opportunity to learn something new. As an employee who has worked at multiple districts, it's been interesting learning about the work the New England District does for the Air Force, Army, and National Guard units across our AOR."

**Baudy-Patterson's extracurricular activities outside the District.**

"I love to bake for friends and family. My most requested are my rum cake, fudge topped brownies, and coconut cake. I also make cookies and pies and love trying new things I find on Pinterest."

**What she wants you to know about her.**

"I am passionate about teaching and empowering others to succeed. I strive to make my team feel valued, trusted and

a vital part of the conversation. I firmly believe when I pour into my team members, support their goals and challenge them to perform beyond expectations, our District benefits from the innovative ideas and collaborative solutions we develop together. Nothing makes me happier or more proud than to witness a team member finish their degree or certification program or get promoted. I am energized because I was a small part of their success. I am originally from New Orleans and a die-hard Saints fan. I enjoy wearing my Saints gear and displaying Mardi Gras beads in my office."

**Pamela Bradstreet - Realty Specialist since 1999**

"I work on both civil and military projects. I have been to all 34 civil projects, including the hurricane barriers, doing compliance/ inventory inspections and work with the well informed staff at the projects. I work out grants both new and renewals, i.e. licenses, easements, leases, etc., and DERP-FUDS and BRAC Rights-of-Entry. I have located land for several Army reserve centers. Several years ago I was fortunate to be selected to go to Thule Air Force Base in Greenland for DLA inspections."



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**What she likes most about working for the New England District.**

"The people at the New England District are a wonderful knowledgeable group to work with that includes real estate co-workers, rangers, project managers, basin managers, and other division employees. Everyone works together as a team to accomplish an action. The Corps has to be one of the best places to work!"

**Bradstreet's extracurricular activities outside the District.**

"I have been walking several miles since 1993 and as often as possible and taking advantage of the Fitness Program. I try to play golf, weather permitting weekly, and enjoy my flower garden."

**What she wants you to know about her.**

"Being a former 3rd grade teacher, two years special education, I enjoy working with children and people in general. After raising two children I pursued the career of a licensed



real estate broker of which I am still licensed. Both children live in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and I have two middle school grandsons. I have lived in a great town since moving to this area from Maryland. I was raised in a small rural town of Selkirk, New York within walking distance of the Hudson River. I still have roots there."

**Lisa Belisle (Project Engineer and Contracting Officer Representative (COR) at the Westover Resident Office)**



"I manage job changes, negotiations, cost estimating, modifications, progress payments, submittals, RFIs, payrolls and labor interviews and ensure accurate and proper preparation of contract documents in compliance with the

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) for various construction projects," she said.

**What she likes most about working for the New England District.**

"The atmosphere and culture. I truly enjoy coming into the office. The office environment we have created is warm and welcoming. Everyone in the office is a team player and helps each other out. We get to know each other and it's not always 'office talk,' but more about family, hobbies, etc. I am also able to balance work with my personal life, something I was not able to do while on Active Duty with the Army."

**Belisle's extracurricular activities outside the District.**

"Most mornings you can find me at the local Crossfit gym and after work I spend many of my nights horseback riding. In the winter, I try to get to the ski mountains as much as possible for some skiing!"

**What she wants you to know about her.**

"I recently separated from Active Duty in January 2022 and was hired to serve as a Project Engineer at the Westover Resident Office. I enjoyed my 3-year Army broadening assignment with the District so much, I didn't want to leave! I also recently passed the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam in October 2021 and recently submitted my application for licensure to the state

of Missouri."

**Jessica Riha, (Railroad bridge maintenance mechanic – the first female to hold this position at the New England District)**



"In my position, my job consists of performing a variety of maintenance and operational tasks on, in, and around the vertical lift railroad bridge/ Cape Cod Canal project grounds," she said. "Work assignments include visual examinations and operational tests to determine the need for and the performance of

routine and potential emergency repair work. At times, my coworker and I are also responsible for changing the beacon flashers on top of the bridge and changing/adjusting the flag."

**What she likes most about working for the New England District.**

"What I like most about working for the New England District is everyone works as a team, there are always new experiences to be a part of, there's room to grow, and most importantly, the office view is amazing! One incredible benefit of working for the New England District the physical fitness program that I try to utilize twice a week running on the canal."

**Riha's extracurricular activities outside the District.**

"In my spare time, I love being active outside! I enjoy taking my dogs Mieka and Theo on hikes and walks on the canal and frequenting my local gym right across the street from the Railroad Bridge. More recently, I am participating in RUCK4HIT this April which is to support Heroes in Transition on the Cape. I love working on house projects, building and fixing things; troubleshooting is my favorite. When I want to just relax, my fiancée Meredith and I love to take New England road trips on the weekends."

**What she wants you to know about her.**

"What I would want people to know about me is I never stop growing and learning. When I went through the fire academy in Stow, Massachusetts, the instructors always said, 'six more feet,' meaning never give up and keep going, really dig deep and don't quit. You are smarter and stronger than you think you are."



## North Hartland team spring clean bird and duck boxes

by Michael Servant  
Otter Brook/Surry Mountain Lake

During the week of March 14, North Hartland Lake project staff performed their annual bird box and duck box cleaning. This is done yearly to clean out the old bird nests, any wasp or hornet nests, and even sometimes mice! While cleaning, staff will record what species inhabited the box. This is done by observing the structure of the nest, whether it is constructed with sticks, grasses, moss or other materials. Now the boxes are ready for this year's flock!



Eggs in a house wren nest were found during the annual box cleaning.



Park Rangers Adlai Ostrer and Cody Symonds clean out a bird box at North Hartland Lake.

Photos provided by Heather Morse

## Hero of the Month: Bill Phelan, Construction Division

Bill Phelan, Construction Representative, Devens Resident Office is the Hero of the Month for February. Phelan is leading the District's efforts at the Callahan Mine Superfund site located in remote Brooksville, Maine.

This \$45 million, 4-year project started in 2019 and involves stabilizing and reducing the tailing dam height; excavating, reducing and capping or removing waste; and restoring

wetlands.

Phelan has been a constant presence at the site, making the weekly 5-hour trip up north for multiple construction seasons (April through November) to ensure a culture of safety is maintained.

In addition to serving at Callahan Mine throughout the week, Phelan also supports other Resident Offices as a subject matter expert for diving and crane operations.

He not only reviews contractors' plans but also inspects their construction sites during operations to ensure work is conducted safely.

Whether he's hosting a Senatorial visit to the Portsmouth dredging project, monitoring dive operations at New Bedford, or conducting quality assurance at Callahan Mine, Phelan consistently demonstrates what it means to deliver the program for the District. (*Construction Contribution*)





Park Rangers James Higgins and Angela Erskine talk with some residents at their information booth.

Photos by Nicole Giles

## Buffumville Lake/Hodges Village Dam team participate in local festival

One of New England District's information booths stood in the Oxford Town Common amidst hundreds of people during the town of Oxford's first Fun, Frost and Family Festival, Feb. 19. The project team was invited by the town to set up an information booth and to host a guided nature tour.

Project Manager Nicole Giles and Park Rangers Angela Erskine and James Higgins braved frigid February weather to talk to residents and pass out water safety bags at their information booth.

"At the booth we talked about Flood Risk Management operations, wildlife and general nature questions the families had," said Giles. "We also brought taxidermy animals including raccoon, red fox, mink and a Mallard duck."

The team also lead a dozen people on a half-mile hike at Greenbriar.

Other activities at the town-sponsored event included a polar plunge at Carbuncle Pond, an ice sculpture demonstration, fire pits, s'mores, hot chocolate, coffee, games and a succulent workshop.

The town's first ever Fun Frost and Family Festival was a great success, according to Giles.

"Yes a huge success! It was their first winter family event and I do think they are planning on having one next year," said Giles. "If we're invited we would go back and hope for warmer weather!"



Park Ranger James Higgins leads participants on a hike.



# Dredging up the past



Photo by Brian Murphy

Lynne McKinney Lydick portrays Clara Barton in her one woman re-enactment show in celebration of Women's History Month in the Concord Park Theatre Aug. 29, 2012.

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