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Of Engineers®**
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News Release

06-06

Release No.

IMMEDIATE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

New Vessel to Bear Employee's Name

NASHVILLE, TENN. (January 31, 2006) – Members of the news media are invited to a ceremony at Noon on Friday, Feb. 3, 2006, where the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will honor a Tennessee employee by affixing his name to a vessel that will ply the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers.

The **BINKLEY Crane Shop Barge** will be christened and named after Louie M. Binkley, a former derrick boat operator and model employee with the Plant Unit, Navigation Branch, Operations Division, who died June 8, 2003, at the age of 43. It will mark the first time the District has named a piece of the floating plant for a Corps employee.

Born in Nashville, Tenn., on March 2, 1960, to Jeannette and Lewis Binkley, he lived in Chapmansboro and served as a long-time member and staunch supporter of the Ashland City Volunteer Fire Department.

Binkley worked at and on all the locks and dams on both the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. He was totally dedicated to his mother Jeannette, sister Martha Dowlen and brother Michael. Martha's husband Dan currently serves as a lock operator at Cheatham Lock.

The **BINKLEY Crane Shop Barge** is 255 feet long, 56 feet wide, with a maximum draft of nine feet. It is fully self-supporting with two generators that produce 170 kilowatts of electrical power. It has a fully-equipped machine/fabrication shop and other facilities. It was designed to support a 300-ton crawler crane, which will more than double the District's heavy-lift capabilities. When the crane is delivered and installed, this unit will replace the 30-year-old Derrickboat # 10.

The District will also christen the new **Motor Vessel IROQUOIS**, a replacement vessel for one used by the District for more than 35 years. The new **M/V IROQUOIS** is 76 feet long, 35 feet wide, with a normal loaded draft of seven feet. It is equipped with the latest and most innovative navigation electronics in the industry. The two main propulsion engines each produce 1,040 horsepower.

Friday's ceremony will be held at the Cottonwood Picnic Shelter on Cheatham Lake, just upstream from the Lock and Dam. The event is open to the public.

For more information, call Bill Peoples, Chief of Public Affairs, at (615)736-7161.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: JEANNETTE BINKLEY will participate in the christening ceremony for the vessel to be named in honor of her son. **(unknown to Mrs. Binkley, she will help unveil a bronze plaque aboard the vessel adorned with his image)**

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