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Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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April 2006



Breaking Ground at Burnside

See Page 4

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New Provider for Employee Assistance

Stuecker & Associates has been named the new service provider for the Employee Assistance Program in the Nashville District.

Direct counseling will be offered to employees and their dependents for up to five separate one-hour sessions per family per twelve-month period. Field employees outside the Nashville commuting area may contact the Contractor and will be referred to organizations within 25 miles of the employee's duty station or residence. The cost of five separate one-hour sessions per family by local organizations to which

referred will be borne by the Contractor. Any additional costs incurred for rehabilitation services are the responsibility of the employee.

Brochures and additional information will be made available soon to the various District organizations.

Management may also initiate employee referrals. Such requests should be coordinated through the servicing Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) representative.

The toll free employee contact number is 1-800-799-9EAP (327).



photo by Steven Foshee

On the Cover

Three students from Burnside Elementary School, in Burnside, Ky., helped Congressman Hal Rogers break ground for a new Municipal Sewer System that will be installed under the Section 531 Program to serve more than 227 homes and businesses in that community. See page 4 for complete details.

District Digest

Commander

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Special Contributors

Steven Foshee, John Tibbels, Carol McDaniels, Lannae Long, Brandon Witcher

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Story ideas and articles may be submitted to P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070. Details may be obtained from the editor at (615) 736-7163.

Written material may also be sent electronically to the editor at the following e-mail addresses:
david.s.treadway@usace.army.mil

Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's homepage at: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil>.

Lieutenant Colonel Steven Roemhildt

Commander's Corner

As most of you are aware, a government fatality occurred in the Huntington District a few weeks ago. This accident involved two personnel working on scaffolding where a crane inadvertently dislodged the scaffolding resulting in a fall and death of one employee. There is an ongoing, formal investigation that I am sure will provide a number of lessons learned. Because of this incident, the Commanding General ordered a safety stand-down for the Division. I received great comments and heard success stories in identifying some of our own potential safety problems as a result of this stand-down.

Communication

I am sure that all personnel that were involved in this accident came to work that day thinking that they were doing their jobs in a safe manner, and yet a tragic accident still occurred. We cannot become complacent with our safety programs and rest on past records as assurance for accident prevention. We must be continually vigilant and utilize safety planning in all aspects of our jobs.

As directed by our current Seven-Star, Five-Castle Safety program, we are making great efforts with our monthly safety meetings, long-weekend briefings, Activity Hazard Analyses and risk assessments. The recent stand-down indicated some areas that may need improvement with hazard communications and identifying requirements for various safety training such as defensive driving.

I recently tasked our safety office to publish a quarterly "safety-gram" highlighting various composite risk management techniques; look for the first publication in early May. I would encourage supervisors to check out the Army Safety Web site at <https://crc.army.mil/home/> for a variety of tools and information on risk management. You may specifically want to familiarize yourself with the ASMIS-2 Risk Assessment for POVs, sort of a self-guided risk assessment for vehicles. This is a great tool that I plan to more formally

incorporate into widespread use after some review.

I would like to close with my own personal safety tip. Spring is here and can bring severe weather, which we have already seen. Anticipate severe thunderstorms and possible tornadoes with approaching storm fronts. Some things to protect you and your family while in-doors are, avoid using telephones, stay away from open doors, windows and appliances. Listen to a weather radio (buy one if you do not have one). If you think a tornado is coming, go to the lowest part of your house. If caught outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building or car; get out of boats and away



from water. If no shelter is available, find a low spot away from trees, avoid hilltops and open spaces. Take severe weather seriously. Remember, Safety, because you are important! 

March Employee of the Month

Carl Scott was selected District Employee of the Month for March.

Scott is currently serving as the Team Leader for the Tennessee River Operations Center at Wilson Dam.

He has supervised more than 200 dives since January 2005. He strives to ensure the dive team, whose members changed often during this timeframe, maintains its focus on safety while continuing to accomplish significant inspection and maintenance activities at the Locks and Dams in the Nashville District as well as in other districts.

Work accomplished during this time included inspection of underwater features of three locks to help develop scopes of work for dewatering activities, installation of bearing steel weldments at Pickwick Auxiliary Lock, and repair of concrete at Cheatham Powerhouse. Led by Scott, the dive team is also frequently called upon to perform work outside the District. They recently inspected miter gates at Holt Lock and Dam in Mobile District helped repair stabilization mats at Burns Harbor in Chicago District.

Senior Leaders select the District employee of the Month from the many excellent employees identified by the District's chain of command. Selected individuals personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and person-al courage. 



Carl Scott

Construction Begins on City's Sewer System

Story and photo by Steven Foshee

Local and state representatives joined Kentucky Congressman Hal Rogers March 13 at Burnside, Ky., to break ground for a Corps project that will provide the city with a new municipal sewer system.

The project, valued at \$6.4 million, will connect more than 800 residents to Somerset's wastewater treatment plant.

Cong. Rogers addressed fourth-grade students in the PRIDE Club at Burnside Elementary School, where the ceremony was held so they could witness the momentous occasion.

Process

"Students, you can tell your grandchildren that you were there the day your community took a big step toward a better quality of life," said Rogers. "Sewer service is essential to preserving public health and attracting new businesses and jobs. We are pursuing this project so you will have a better future. I trust that you will exceed our stewardship efforts because you are already learning to take pride in the community."

Burnside Mayor Dean Lovins noted the scope of the project, which has been ongoing for almost a decade.

"I've heard it said that the best thing that ever happened to Burnside was (Lake



Students and local officials join Congressman Hal Rogers at Burnside Elementary School March 13 to break ground for the Burnside Municipal Sewer System.

Cumberland), and that's probably true, but this surely must be the second best thing that has happened to the city," said Lovins. "The city has worked on this project for eight to 10 years."

The area's rocky, sloping terrain limits the effectiveness of septic systems and under-treated sewage easily seeps through limestone into Lake Cumberland. A collection and transfer system that connects to Somerset's sewer system was

judged the most economical and environmentally sound way to treat the community's wastewater. Under the project, Somerset Waterworks will process Burnside wastewater.

Vernon Brown of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, said the first funds for the project were set aside by his department in 2000. Although there were many opportunities to quit, the city pressed ahead with the plan.

"This is indeed a glorious day in Burnside," said Brown.

Lovins accepted a ceremonial check for \$473,000 from Steve Robertson, the commissioner of the Governor's Office for Local Development, the most recent agency to provide funding for the project.

Rogers secured federal funds for the Burnside sewer project as part of the PRIDE initiative, an environmental improvement campaign serving 38 counties in southern and eastern Kentucky. Since 1997, more than \$111 million in PRIDE-related funds have been invested to provide septic systems and public sewer service to 26,000 homes.

Rogers encouraged students in the School's PRIDE Club to carry on the environmental awareness program as the first Kentuckians in this area to have cleaner water to drink, swim in and enjoy. 

Engineer Day Picnic June 9 will be Choked Full of Fun

The Engineer Day Picnic, with the theme "Rollin' on the River", will be held this year on June 9 at Old Hickory's Rockland Recreation Area.

Various groups will be conducting fundraising events until June to help offset the cost for each employee. Down South Delights, LLC, was selected to cater hot dogs, hamburgers and pulled pork with accompanying side dishes.

Employees on the 6th floor staged a March 17 event and raised \$353. Field employees sold Krispie Creme donuts March 29 and raised an additional \$225. Those on the 4th floor will plan an April

event with an Easter theme while those on the 5th floor will plan a May event as fundraisers.

Advance tickets will go on sale May 1 the cost of which will be based on funds raised or projected. Planners must arrive at a count by June 2 to prepare the proper amount of food. Ticket prices after that date, and on the day of the picnic, will be higher. Retirees may call Valerie Carlton at 736-7278 to order tickets at the cheapest rate. A sequence of events will be published in the May Digest and also sent to retirees via email.

Watch the Digest for more details.

Sneed Named Conservationist of the Year

by Dave Treadway

Bob Sneed, chief of Nashville District's Water Management Section, was named 2005 Water Conservationist of the Year by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation (TWF) March 21.

The Award honors an individual or organization for "outstanding achievement in pollution control, conservation and protection of wetlands, estuaries and wild or natural rivers, prevention of water degradation quality through effective planning and management or other activity aimed at maintaining or improving water standards."

Sneed was cited by TWF spokesman Don King for his lead role in designing and implementing an innovative scheme of blending power generation waters with sluice gate releases to greatly improve dissolved oxygen levels in the Center Hill Dam tailwaters of the Caney Fork River.

"Since the 1980's," said King, "TWRA has worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore the water quality in the Caney Fork River downstream of Center Hill Dam. From August to October of each year, oxygen is depleted in the water that is released during power generation and that has severely damaged the trout fishery. In the fall of 2005, for the first time in more than half a century, the oxygen content of the Caney Fork River supported keeping the trout fishery intact into the cold weather months. As a result, the Caney Fork may begin to produce world class fish comparable to those found in the rough hollows of other famous trout rivers."

"It's very gratifying to be recognized in this manner," said Sneed, following the presentation, "but I don't look at this as an individual recognition. It was the

result of a team effort. It started with a renewed environmental awareness fostered by the Chief of Engineers and his establishment of the Environmental Operating Principles. This attitude has

dissolved oxygen concentration of 4.6 milligrams per liter (mg/l) and the reading they took just below the sluice gate was 9.0 mg/l. Readings taken further downstream, which represented a



As a WKRN TV2 reporter (right) films the sluice release last year at Center Hill Dam, Bob Sneed (center) discusses the dissolved oxygen sampling procedures with team members Chad Braun (left) and Jeff Gregory. The duo then collected readings from various points downstream from the dam.

filtered throughout our organization and now includes our partners from the power, environmental, and recreation arenas who all play an important role. Certainly, the sluicing effort would not have been successful without the dedicated support provided by the staff at Center Hill. They were the folks who really made it happen."

Sneed met a reporter from WKRN-TV2 Sept. 1, 2005, at Center Hill Dam and explained the Corps' objective to raise oxygen levels and ultimately improve the aquatic life in the Caney Fork. The sluicing process began August 22.

Measurements taken downstream in the tailwaters by water management personnel proved the practice was working.

"The data they collected," Sneed told the reporter, "in the release from the hydropower turbines indicated a

blending of these two flows, averaged 6.3 mg/l. We were trying to meet the State water quality standard which is 6.0 mg/l for a cold-water environment like the Center Hill tailwater."

Sneed explained how the Caney Fork River used to be a warm water stream but with the construction of Center Hill Dam, the lower portion of the river was converted to a cold-water environment.

The Corps released cold water through both the sluice and the hydropower turbines but the water in the turbines did not contain the desired dissolved oxygen levels. Releases through the sluice, however, were highly oxygenated. The cold oxygenated water benefited the downstream environment and ultimately the fishery, primarily rainbow trout and brown trout stocked by TWRA. 🏠

Tennessee Teacher Honored by Veterans

by Dave Treadway

History Teacher Joanie Witcher was named the Tennessee Teacher of the Year for Citizenship Education in the middle schools by the Tennessee chapter of the Volunteers of Foreign Wars. She accepted the award in February.

Witcher, whose husband is Lock Operator Butch Witcher at Nickajack Lock, has taught school in the state for 30 years, the last 25 at Jasper Middle School. She began teaching while Butch worked at Cordell Hull Lock. She was selected for the award by the VFW after nomination by a colleague who observed the respect paid her by students.

“You hope to make a difference in children’s lives,” revealed Witcher, “but when you get in the classroom, those kids have such an impact on you.”

Witcher earned a bachelors degree in health and physical education at Tennessee Tech in 1975 and a masters in library science from MTSU in 1996. When the family moved to Jasper, the only position open was a social studies position.

“The rest,” she said, “is history! I fell in love with it and I’ve done it ever since. I’ve had opportunities to take other jobs but I love American History.”

And, although history is the subject she is paid to teach, she said she also tries to leave students with much more.

“At the beginning of the school year,” said Witcher, “I tell my students that I am trying to teach history but I hope I am able to help them take more away from my class than just history. I want them to be a productive human being, to learn to vote, to contribute to society.

Witcher takes that responsibility seriously.

“Sometimes you are the only adult in a child’s life, the only adult who cares about these kids.”

Joanie Witcher

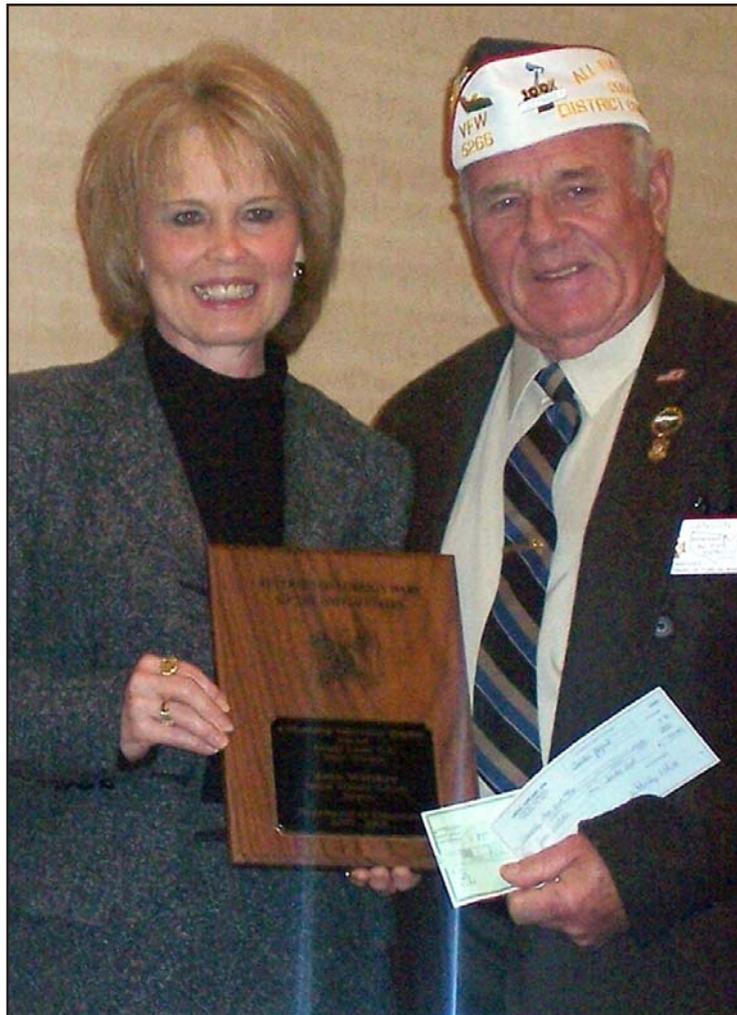


photo by Brandon Witcher

Joanie Witcher accepts the Tennessee Teacher of the Year for Citizenship Education in the middle schools from the VFW during a February awards dinner in Nashville.

“If you can impact just five kids during a school year, then you will help determine what these children will later become.”

The eighth-grade teacher is evidently doing just that because she still receives letters from former students. “About 10

years ago a young man sent me a letter telling me what a difference I had made in his life. He now was interested in a career in politics and it was because of me. That made me feel very good.

“Another former student came up to me and said, ‘Miss Witcher, I don’t know how much history I learned but you made such a difference in my life.’ That’s what I try to do.”

She has evidently done much the same in the lives of both her children. Her 25-year-old daughter, Ashley Sowder, just took her first job teaching 3rd graders in Chattanooga and son Brandon, who had classes in 5th and 8th grade with Mom as teacher, will complete his degree in public relations at MTSU this year.

“History has always fascinated me,” said Brandon, “and that fascination and passion definitely came from my mom. She knows more history than anyone I know of, including some of my professors at MTSU. My mom is one of the biggest inspirations in my life, along with my dad. My mom was the first in our family to graduate college, and that had a profound effect on me as well.”

Husband Butch had high praise for Joanie.

“Our family is very proud of Joanie. She wants her students to learn everything possible, not just about the history of our country, but also how our government works. It really concerns her when young people seem to not care about such important matters.

“To receive an award from an organization like the VFW means more to her because they recognize the importance of teaching our young people about what makes our country so great.”

Barkley Ranger Selected for Award

by Dave Treadway

Lake Barkley's David Landis has been chosen 'Ranger of the Year' by ReserveAmerica. Selection of the environmental protection specialist was based on comments submitted by campers who accessed the website, ReserveAmerica.com, and included five other park employees.

One frequent visitor at Lake Barkley left the following testimonial on the ReserveAmerica website:

"This guy is the friendliest, most helpful, not to mention always-smiling park ranger I've ever known in my 27 years of camping at the Canal Campground in Grand Rivers, Ky. He personally checks on my wife and me when we are camping, knowing we have a favorite site at the Canal. He ... wants to be sure the site is up to par, and that we are having a good time. This makes David a personal friend that we encourage to stay and talk a while, ... we know we are not the only campers on the lake! However, David makes us feel as if we were! He is definitely the most cheerful, likable, and helpful ranger, government employee we will ever know and are privileged to have him as our Park Ranger. We feel we have a stake in the Canal Campground after supporting it 27 years, and when David came into the picture many years ago, about 12 for us, the difference was noticed when what could have been foreseeable problems were eliminated thanks to David Landis. You are very fortunate to have him on your staff."

Landis is the only winner among federal agencies utilizing

the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). State Park rangers from Massachusetts, California, Florida, South Carolina and New York joined the Nashville District ranger.

Resource Manager Mike Looney said 'dependable' is the best way to describe Landis.

"When there is a task that absolutely, positively, has to be done and failure is not an option, David will come through every time," said Looney. "This award is a testimony to David's interpersonal skills. He is very customer focused in the administration of the Campground Program here at Lake Barkley. David is well liked by the entire West Kentucky Area team, campground patrons and the public."

"David's recognition," said Western Kentucky Operations Manager Dianne Edwardson, "is a positive reflection on the work of all Lake Barkley's staff in assuring our customer expectations are exceeded."

Landis earned a bachelors degree in recreation and park administration from Eastern Kentucky University in 1995 but began working for the Corps while still in college.

He was a Co-op in 1994 at Dale Hollow Lake and converted to full-time Park Ranger trainee status in 1995. He moved to Lake Barkley the following year and was selected for his present position in 2002.

As an environmental specialist, the eastern Kentucky native deals with environmental compliance and analyses, environmental protection of cultural and historical resources, and project safety operations. He is also the project campground and recreation administrator, which means he



photo by Carol McDanielis

Park Ranger David Landis

serves as coordinator for both the National Recreation Reservation Service Program and the volunteer program at Lake Barkley.

The Marshall County resident, who recently built a home on 11 acres, loves his work.

"I like dealing with the Campgrounds during the recreation season," said Landis, "and the people who use them. I enjoy talking with campers who come here; there is always a wide variety of campers who enjoy Lake Barkley."

Landis works closely with contract Park Attendants who man the gates at the lake's four major Campgrounds and also enjoys that role.

He and Leah have been married for 10 years and are the proud parents of two boys, Jacob, 5, and Ethan, 19 months.

NRRS represents the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This is the first year for recognition, but ReserveAmerica plans to continue the practice. Winners will be recognized in special features of *Camping Life* and *BackPacker* magazines. They will also be featured on the company's website beside America's Top 100 Campgrounds at www.reserveamerica.com. 🏠

Employees Celebrate Roles of Women

by *Dave Treadway*

Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams was the theme chosen for the 2006 Women's

History Month observance to honor the contributions of women to the nation.

Four role models in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) were honored at the District's March 21 program.

Olga Beddingfield and Patty Coffey were nominated as STEM role models for their contributions in the field of technology, and Emily Carr and Tennesse Henderson for their contributions in the field of engineering.

In a proclamation read by Elaine Bustillos, Security Management Office, President George

W. Bush declared, "For generations, women across our great land have helped make our country stronger and better . . . At the end of the 19th century, pioneers Jane Addams and Ellen Starr opened the doors of Hull House to serve impoverished and immigrant families in the Chicago community. Presidential Medal of Freedom winner Annie Dodge Wauneka

worked to educate her native Navajo community about preventing and treating disease. In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, helping to inspire

mother is my shero, she taught me of the endless possibilities in life. "I had a career guidance counselor in high school named Mrs. Lester who was a willing participant in cultivating the mind of a young adult."

Jones studied pre-med at Michigan State University and took design classes for fun. In the process she discovered a propensity for the design field and engineering, the field where she would eventually excel.

The ability to see those 'endless possibilities' is what drove her to excel in classes about structural steel and principles of wood and concrete, and to solve design problems.

She spoke of influencing others. When a young lady was 12 and a Girl Scout, she first heard Jones speak and was inspired to pursue her dream.

"You never know the lives you might touch," said Jones. I didn't remember

the Girl Scout class but I did remember a young woman who was insistent when asking if I would come and speak to her class." She urged attendees to share. "Reach someone who might never have been exposed to what you have unless you had shared it."

The mother of two is a partner in the architectural firm with her husband. 



Architect Beverly Hannah Jones addresses District employees assembled March 21 in Room A640.

a nationwide movement for equal justice under the law."

Corps employees were then treated to a presentation by architect Beverly Hannah Jones, CEO of The Hannah Jones Group, and of Hannah Murano Architecture.

Jones, a registered architect, owns an architectural firm headquartered in Detroit, Mich. She earned bachelors and masters degrees from Lawrence Technological University.

"Women Building Communities and Dreams is very touching to me," revealed Jones. "It's been the core of who I am for so long. We are the chosen vessels by which souls are interjected into our families and communities, one life at a time.

"We must plant a seed of endless possibilities of hope. The birth and life of a child are the primary responsibilities of a woman, the one who was created to nurture and care, to give birth, new vision, new hope, and new dreams. Today I am totally committed to sharing my gifts. My



Emily Carr



Olga Beddingfield

District Names New Distinguished Civilian

Story and photos by Dave Treadway

The person considered one of the most permanent fixtures at the annual Nashville District Engineer Day Picnic will be honored this year as a Distinguished Civilian Employee during the June 9 Corps Day event.

Curtis Malone, who many affectionately call the 'Barbecue King', began his career with the District as a laborer at J. Percy Priest Power Plant on April 27, 1970. On 1 March 1971, he obtained an Excepted Appointment at Old Hickory Power Plant and worked there as a Hydroelectric Power House mechanic helper and maintenance worker until his retirement in January 2005. Malone was an invaluable employee and trusted member of the Nashville District team for 35 years.

His participation in Department of Defense regional wage surveys over the course of 25 years, an arduous process of intricate acquisition and compilation of data, helped establish the wages of the District's labor force.

Malone helped develop and implement the initial Nashville District Business Plan, a document designed to recognize the technical and professional excellence of the workforce, establish teams with guidelines on how they function, and to deliver projects and services regionally by communicating and building synergistic relationships.

Although Malone played a part in numerous construction, maintenance and repair projects at Cheatham, J. Percy Priest and Old Hickory Powerplants throughout his 35-year career, perhaps his greatest contribution was made while representing the interests of others.

He served as President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2080, and facilitated a positive change in the labor relations culture in the Nashville District. He was instrumental in establishing a joint labor and management Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) training session. That training resulted in the eventual adoption of an interest-based negotiated contract between management and labor that has been in effect since November 1998. This



Curtis Malone

innovative contract was the first of its kind in the Corps of Engineers and led to the adoption of the first ever Compressed Work Schedule for the Nashville District Bargaining Unit. This was a long-awaited and much-sought-after quality-of-life benefit for Nashville's bargaining unit

People

employees and greatly enhanced workforce morale. Nashville District's current partnering environment would not have been possible without his leadership.

Malone is a charter member of the Nashville District Partnership Council. This forum is utilized to discuss and resolve issues of concern to the workforce and management. Since its beginning in 1999, management and labor have worked jointly to resolve issues and problems that could have escalated into formal grievances. Not only has this resulted in resources savings, it continues to promote one of the most dynamic and functional union/management relationships in the federal service.

Malone's charitable work at Engineer Day functions encouraged employee participation and improved morale throughout the workforce.

His community service and willingness to assist others is legendary. The man who always arrived at his destination with a wide smile and a warm handshake is also an accomplished and award-winning outdoor cook with a long legacy of providing outstanding meals at carnivals, festivals and other public and private events throughout the mid-south.

As an Army veteran, he continued to serve his country and the State of Tennessee as a Sergeant First Class in the Tennessee State Guard from April 1995 through September 2004. Active in his church and community, the District's newest Distinguished Civilian Employee has been described by many as an outstanding ambassador for the Corps of Engineers. 



Curtis Malone doing one of the things he loves most, cooking for others!

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to...

...Britt Henderson, civil engineer in the Design Branch, who will be married April 22 at Franklin Road Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., to Kristi Stevens. ...to members of the 2006 EAGLE class; John Baird and Justin Reed - J. Percy Priest, Gary Bruce - Center Hill, Melissa Cartwright and Tim Dawson - Information Management, Jody Craig - Engineering, Sandra Jackson - Resource Management, Jerry Kennedy, Wallace Lovell, Courtney Wilson - Old Hickory, Sherry Phillips - Executive Office, Cory Richardson - Nickajack Lock, John Simpson - Wolf Creek, Christopher Taylor - Watts Barr Lock, Holly Taylor - Office of Counsel, Adam Walker - Engineering Construction. ...Brigitte Rugare, a contractor in Programs and Project Management Division. Son Mark and Erin Rugare were married on the Big Island of Hawaii March 29.

Welcome to...

...Natural Resources Program Assistant Janine Schauer, who works in Natural Resources Management Branch. She comes here from Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. ...Maj. Craig Guth who arrived at Kirkuk, Iraq, on Feb. 20. He is one of several deputy district engineers (Foreword) working with the local Provincial Reconstruction Team to develop a political process for approval and prioritization of infrastructure projects, as well as an open contract award and management system. In that role he must coordinate with various entities to construct the first sanitary landfill in Iraq and develop both an urban and regional master plan. ...Kim Moore, negotiator for the Upper Cumberland Real Estate office in Pineville, Ky. Moore previously worked for the Huntington District and most recently for Bureau of Prisons.

Baby Brigade to...

...Barbara and Larry Nash, resource manager, Cheatham Lake, on the arrival of grandson Zackary Owen born January 5. He is the son of Erik and Holly Nash. ...Brigitte Rugare, a contractor in Programs and Project Management Division, upon the birth of her 3rd great-grandson, Dylan Robert Duncan, on

March 21 to granddaughter Karen and husband David. Dylan weighed 8 pounds and measured 21 inches.



Dylan Robert

Sympathy to...

...Tim Nelson, journeyman electrician at Old Hickory Power Plant, whose father, Thomas A. Nelson, passed away March 3. ...Stacy Bennett, a graphic artist in information management, and Bill Bennett, safety specialist, whose grandfather and father-in-law Jack McKeever passed away March 5. ...Park Ranger Charlie Leath, whose grandfather, William E. Stewart, passed away March 9. ...the family of retiree William (Bill) O'Neal, age 90, who passed away March 9 at Cookeville Regional Hospital. ...Center Hill Park Contract Inspector, Shirley Puckett, who lost her mother, Mildred Christian, March 10. ...Fay Johnson, Contracting, whose sister, Juanita, passed away March 22. ...the Traughber family. Gladys Traughber: grandmother of Owen Traughber, Joseph Traughber, Jacob Traughber and Johnny Traughber who work in Navigation Branch, passed away March 22 following a long illness. ...Shirley Puckett, park contract inspector, Center Hill Lake, whose mother passed March 10.

Thanks to...

...It's impossible to express fully what the love and support of friends like you have meant during this difficult time for our family. Dan loved the Corps and his association with you. Your coming to the visitation, the funeral, the floral arrangements, memorial contributions, calls, cards and kind words of sympathy and encouragement have been such a comfort. While the sudden loss of Dan will forever impact our lives, we are strengthened by your outpouring of kindness and concern and are so appreciative. God bless you and your families. *Emma Hall and family*

...all the people in the Nashville District who so graciously donated leave that I received while on maternity leave. I want you to know that I really appreciated the time that was donated. It allowed me to heal from the labor and spend time with my son. *Janelle Dickens*

...Thank you for the wonderful retirement celebration of all the years of work and friendship! It was just magnificent! Thank you to all who worked so hard to make my retirement so special, celebrations I will always remember with just joy! Thank you for the wonderful retirement gifts and well wishes, I have been so touched by the outpouring of friendship and love. How can I ever thank you all for the 36-plus years of learning, growing, and pride that surrounded me with the Nashville District team? I watched the District grow in talent, skills, and service to the nation. I have seen from early career through retirement many wonderful friends who made such a difference in the District through their work and dedication. Heroes are common place, my friends in the field, who go over and above the work standards because they have such pride in their work and the Corps, my District Office heroes who plan and execute the great work we do with shrinking resources, and the difficult processes now required. Your compassion for your friends and coworkers has made a wonderful setting for the influence that Nashville District has made in our Corps of Engineers. Thank you again for the privilege of working with you all, and the wonderful memories I hold in my heart from my career experiences. *Victoria Hooper*

Upcoming Events

Program dates have been established for Special Emphasis Programs Committee events for 2006. So that management and employees are aware of each event, and perhaps schedule around these important activities, this list will be updated in subsequent issues as more planning finalizes details. April/May events are:
April 26 - Administrative Professionals Day
April 27 - Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day event
May 23 - Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month program (**Room A-655**) 🇺🇸

It's a Matter of Privacy -- Some Rules to Follow

Story and photo by Steven Foshee

The Privacy Act of 1974 was designed to protect Americans' personal information. How it accomplishes this was detailed for District employees March 29 by Chief Counsel Bill Hill and Rhonda Varnell, Information Management Office, in a briefing to interested employees. The duo also showed how adherence to its statutes helps federal workers avoid civil lawsuits and possible misdemeanor convictions.

Hill explained how the Privacy Act served as a withholding statute.

"It balances the public's need to know," said Hill, "with the individual's right against disclosure of personal information."

The Chief Counsel covered the four objectives of the Privacy Act. Objective number one restricts disclosure of personally identifiable records. Objective number two grants individuals increased access to their own records. Objective number three grants individuals the right to seek amendment of agency records that may contain personal information which is inaccurate. Objective number four requires agencies to comply with statutory guidelines under which they

may collect, store and distribute records. Hill posed a question to the audience.

"Where are the documents with personal information in your office kept?" asked Hill. One person answered, "On top of the supervisor's or employee's desk."

Another employee said, "In a file cabinet."

Records management expert Yvonne Hamilton contended that such information should be placed in a folder in accordance with the Army Records Information Management System. That folder should include a Privacy Act number as well as a destruction date.

Then that folder should be secured in a locked file cabinet.

Hill agreed and repeated the answer in his words. Hill and Varnell then chose volunteers to illustrate some points related to gathering personal information about employees.

One person played the role of supervisor while another posed as an employee. The employee then asked for sick leave and the supervisor's task was



Rhonda Varnell, (right) Information Management, and Jim Siburt ensure personal information is in a locked file cabinet.

to determine documentation necessary to support that request. Some in the audience wanted the details of the employee's illness before approving sick leave. Other members of the audience only wanted a doctor's excuse stating that the employee was unable to perform his or her duties and projecting a date he or she would be able to return to work.

"You need to know what you are requesting," explained Hill, "and why you need the additional medical information to support his or her absence."

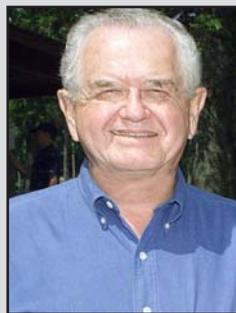
The Chief Counsel was adamant about two additional points; medical documentation on sensitive illnesses should NOT be routinely collected and ALL medical information falls under the statutes of the Privacy Act. The Act considers medical documentation a personal identifier, along with dental records, DNA records, name, social security number and finger prints.

Employees can review information about the Privacy Act by periodically visiting slides used in the briefing. They are located on the District intranet site at <http://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/oc/Info.htm>. Employees may also call Rhonda Varnell at 736-7665 if they have questions. 🏠

Where are they now?

This corner will showcase retirees and former District employees. If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in this spot, please email the editor at david.s.treadway@us.army.mil, or send to Public Affairs Office, PO Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202.

Billy Grantham retired October 1990 while serving as the executive assistant to the District Engineer. He now lives in Dickson, Tenn., and stays active in Community Affairs. He served on the committee to plan, design and construct a new Burns Baptist Church, has served two terms as president of the local chapter National Association of Current and Retired Federal Employees, was a charter member and two-time president of the local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, is a member and two-time past chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Dickson County Library, is a member of the Warito Regional Library Board of Trustees, a charter member of the Dickson County Forestry Association, and a member of the state Forest Association. His hobbies include growing vegetables to share with his neighbors, tree farming, deer hunting and riding his four-wheeler. 🏠



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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Flooding Dangers

by John Tibbels

Since we are in the spring weather cycle, it would be prudent to review some safety tips about flooding and high water events. Attention to the recommendations below may save your life or someone near you. Share them with those you love:

Do not walk through flowing water

Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Most cases of drowning occur during flash floods. Only six inches of flowing water can knock you off your feet.

Do not drive through a flooded area

More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Never drive around a road barrier; the road or bridge may be washed out. Think about it; there may have been a very good reason someone put the barrier in place.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires

Electrocution is also a major killer during flooding. Water is an excellent conductor of electrical current. Report downed power lines to your utility company.

Turn off your electricity when you return home

Some appliances, such as television sets, can shock you even after they have been unplugged.

Look before you step

After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that

have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Carbon monoxide exhaust kills

Only use a generator or other gasoline-powered engine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves and charcoal grills. Carbon monoxide is odorless and exposure in a confined area can be deadly.

Take good care of yourself

SAME Offers College Scholarships

To encourage and assist deserving students pursue a college education in the fields of engineering, architecture, mathematics, or computer science, the Nashville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers created a scholarship program in 1990. From a modest single scholarship of \$500, the Post has awarded 181 scholarships valued at \$231,000 during the past 15 years.

The Post is currently accepting applications from graduating high school seniors and current college students.

Scholarships up to \$2500 will be awarded for use during the 2005 – 2006 academic year. Complete eligibility requirements, selection criteria, and an electronic version of the scholarship

application form can be found on the Nashville Post website at www.samenashvillepost.org. Sons and daughters or grandsons and granddaughters of Corps employees are eligible to apply provided they meet all eligibility criteria.

Deadline for receipt of applications is April 21. Winners will be notified June 30. Scholarship funds will be distributed directly to universities August 1. Those with questions should contact Lannae Long in the Environmental Restoration Branch, telephone 615-736-2049, e-mail at lannae.j.long@lrm02.usace.army.mil, or William James, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, telephone (615) 369-7508, or email at William.L.James@lrm02.usace.army.mil. 