

THE Water's SUMMER 2016 Edge



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Vicksburg District



US Army Corps of Engineers®

News magazine of the Vicksburg District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Commander and District Engineer
COL Michael C. Derosier

Public Affairs Team

Greg C. Raimondo
Chief

Shirley J. Smith
Public Affairs Specialist
Managing Editor

Bucky Wall
Public Affairs Specialist

Magazine Layout by
Colleen Cummins

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Contact:

Gregory.C.Raimondo@usace.army.mil
or Phone (601) 631-5053

Shirley.J.Smith@usace.army.mil
or Phone (601) 631-5223

Fax (601) 631-5551

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MG Michael C. Wehr presents the Corps flag to Col Michael C. Derosier as Col John W. Cross and Patricia Hemphill look on.
Photo by Alfred Dulaney

Commander's Corner

with Colonel Michael C. Derosier



Hello Vicksburg District Team Members

Monica and I would like to thank everyone again for the warm welcome into the District. Also, thank you for keeping with tradition, by hosting a most memorable change of command ceremony that many are still talking about. My first few weeks here have been incredible; getting to learn about and understand the District; and meeting our phenomenal employees, stakeholders, and partners.

Our mission inspires me and our team impresses and amazes me every day – Essayons!

Now, just a little about me:

- Grew up in New Hampshire
- Graduated from West Point in 1992
- Served in combat in Somalia (1993), nearly in Haiti (Uphold Democracy in 1994), and twice in Iraq (2006 and 2009)
- Served as a project engineer (FED) and Resident Engineer (NWO)
- Served as District Commander in Detroit
- Served as Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
- Monica grew up near Cleveland, Ohio; she has been a registered nurse for nearly 20 years; we have been married for 21 years.

Why am I here? Because I love the mission of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and I am motivated every day to be around our phenomenal people in USACE.

What is important to me? YOU ARE! To that, I want to ensure that we have a professional workplace to come to each day – 100% free from discrimination and sexual harassment/assault. A mindset where safety and respect are part of our organizational culture. An environment where everyone has the ability to thrive. A workplace where employees are trained and mentored to be ready for more – when that opportunity comes. An organization that all would recommend to family and friends. A team that recognizes excellence and success. A District that is respected across the region and the Corps for collaboration, for cooperation, and for getting the job done.

Our MISSION – as we serve the Nation and so many customers and stakeholders in the Valley, even across the globe. It makes me proud to see our Corps of Engineers castle on a project well done or to see our team rolling up sleeves to tackle the toughest of challenges.

TEAMWORK – internally, vertically, and horizontally. A team that delivers on both what we have been tasked and what we promise we will deliver. A team that leverages a strong supervisory chain of command. A team that leverages project managers to integrate and synchronize the District's efforts. Leaders that know how to employ our special teams for maximum results – safety, internal review, small business, resource management, human resources, contracting, real estate, IT, security, EEO, public affairs, counsel, and logistics.

A team that COMMUNICATES for success – internally, vertically, with our customers, and with Congress. Tell our story – no one else will tell it as well as we do. Please know that I personally believe that communication is most effective when supervisors and the chain of command are leveraged and is always best, when possible, face-to-face. At the same time, I'd like everyone to know that I have an open-door policy. Also, anyone can submit a comment through the Commander's Anonymous Suggestion Box on the District's intranet page.

A POSITIVE ATTITUDE and a desire for CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT are essential to a vital organization. We will do this, in part, by leveraging our battle rhythm (staff meetings, PRBs, OPLAN, etc.) to ensure that our priorities are focused and that we are lining up the District for short-term, intermediate-range, and longer-term success. We will incorporate feedback from a variety of surveys (Command Climate, Federal Employee Viewpoint, ARAP/safety, Customer Satisfaction) to help keep us on task.

Last, but not least, remember to have fun. As former Navy football coach Charlie Weatherbie used to say – “How do you spell fun? W-I-N!”

I look forward to serving alongside you and as your Commander for the next 3 years.

Col Derosier Assumes Command of Vicksburg District

By Shirley J. Smith
 Photos by Alfred Dulaney

Colonel Michael C. Derosier assumed the duties of Commander of the Vicksburg District on July 26. He came to the District after serving as the Deputy Commander, Mississippi Valley Division.

Colonel Derosier assumed Command of the 68,000-square-mile District from Colonel John W. Cross.

His previous assignments also include platoon leader, company executive officer and assistant brigade engineer, 41st Engineer Brigade, Fort Drum, New York; (Operation Continue Hope, Somalia and Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti); Company Commander, B Company, 62nd Engineer Battalion, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; project engineer, Far East District, Chunchon, South Korea; resident engineer, Schriever Air Force Base, Omaha District, USACE, Colorado Springs, Colorado; plans officer, I Corps, Fort Lewis, Washington; battalion operations officer and executive officer, 14th Engineer Battalion, Fort Lewis, Washington (Operation Iraqi Freedom); and brigade operations officer and executive officer, 555th Engineer Brigade, Fort Lewis, Washington (Operation Iraqi Freedom).

He is a graduate of the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island (2014-2015), served as the mili-

tary assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) at the Pentagon (2012-2014), and Commander of the Detroit District from 2010-2012.

Col. Derosier was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1992 after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.

He earned a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Colorado- Boulder in 2000, a Master of Military Art and Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies in 2005, and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the United States Naval War College in 2015. His military education includes U.S. Army Ranger, Sapper, Airborne and Air Assault courses, the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Command and General Staff College.

He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Missouri. He is married, and his wife, Monica, is a native of Mentor, Ohio. ◀



Team members bid farewell to Col Cross and family.



Team members welcome Col Derosier and family to the District.

Cooperative Signing Agreement Increases Hours of Operation at Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum

By Shirley J. Smith
Photos by Alfred Dulaney

Thanks to a cooperative agreement between the Corps and the City of Vicksburg's Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum and Interpretive Center will be open seven days a week. The museum, located at 910 Washington Street, built and funded by the Corps, opened in August 2012.

The agreement was signed October 21, 2016 by Col. Derosier and Mayor George Flaggs. Col. Derosier stated, "We are thrilled to be partnering with the city to extend the hours of operation at the museum. It is exciting to see a partnership between local and federal government." Mayor Flaggs stated, "I would like to see Vicksburg be a gateway to the state of Mississippi. Hopefully, the extended hours at the museum will attract more tourism in the downtown area."

The museum's purpose is to educate the public about the Lower Mississippi River and its tributaries from St. Louis to the Gulf of Mexico. It provides an understanding of the third largest watershed in the world and its role as a thoroughfare for waterborne

commerce and economic development. An outdoor model of the Mississippi River interprets the stretch of the river from Greenville to Vicksburg. It illustrates how the Mississippi River, levees and control structures interact while simulating both normal and flood water flows. The model was designed and built by the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) based in Vicksburg. The site also features the Motor Vessel Mississippi IV, a retired Corps working towboat.

The museum features a 1,500 gallon aquarium, which allows visitors to observe river aquatic life swimming, feeding, and interacting with one another. Corps biologists stocked the tank with fish collected from the river as well as fish maintained in a laboratory at ERDC.

The \$23 million-dollar museum opened after nearly 20 years of planning. Formerly named the Lower Mississippi River Museum and Interpretive Center, the name changed to Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum in 2014. The name change was in honor of Jesse Brent, known as the "Granddaddy of the Towboat Industry". Brent was founder of Greenville Towing Company and later Brent Towing Company.

Now, being available for tours seven days a week, the museum's extra hours of operation can more effectively enhance the public's knowledge about the Corps and add economic benefits to the city. ◀



Mayor Flaggs and Col. Derosier shake hands after the signing agreement.



Col. Derosier, far right, is pictured with Corps team members, civic leaders and museum volunteers.



Corps Completes Repair Work on Lock and Dam #1



Pictures at top and bottom are views of the floating plant in front of Lock and Dam #1 on the Red River while repairs are being made to the hitch blocks.

**By Shirley J. Smith
Photos by Barry Driggers and
James Cumberland**

Repair work has been completed on the Vicksburg District's Lindy C. Boggs Lock and Dam (Lock #1) on the Red River. The work consisted of repair to the cable connections on five of the lock's eleven gates. These repairs were necessary due to the deterioration of the nuts and washers that secure the hoist cables.

Over the past eight years, the other six gates had previously been repaired. During the floods of last year, engineers restricted gate openings to 17 feet on gates 1, 4 and 6 due to deterioration of the cable connection nuts and washers. Gate #3 failed in 2014 and Gate #8 failed in 2105. Although the

two gates were closed, nearly 8 feet of water was flowing over them at the height of the flood.

The lock and dam is located at Red River mile 43.8 and about 11 miles north of Marks-ville, Louisiana. The lock and dam system is part of the Monroe Navigation Project Office. It is the first lock and dam on the Red River and is part of the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway system.

The J. Bennett Johnston Waterway traverses over 225 miles from its confluence with the Atchafalaya River to Shreveport-Bossier, Louisiana. The waterway includes five locks and dams and five ports, which handle approximately 9 million tons of commodities per year and support over 1300 jobs. The waterway offers convenient, cost-effective access to regional, national, and international markets. Commodities that have been the staple for the ports include refined oil products, fertilizer, construction grade sand & gravel and steel products. ◀



Top photo is of hired labor crew welding new anodes onto the skin plate side of the tainter gate. The bottom left photo shows the hitch blocks before repairs and the bottom right photo shows hitch block bolts, nuts and washers after repair.



Vicksburg District Hosts Third Annual Blessing of the Fleet

The blessing of one of the vessels in the fleet as it makes its way down the channel.

**By Shirley J. Smith
Photos by Alfred Dulaney**

The District's Mat Sinking Unit (MSU) left the Vicksburg harbor for its annual revetment season on August 29, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. The District hosted a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony at the Vicksburg City Water Front as the MSU departed.

A tradition that dates back to medieval times, the Blessing of the Fleet originally started in early European fishing communities. A blessing bestowed by a local priest was meant to ask for an abundant and safe season.

Family members, Corps team members, and local city and county officials were in attendance to wish a safe and



Col Derosier makes opening remarks about the significance of the ceremony.



Pictured left to right are Father Patrick Curley, Rev. Sam Godfrey, and Chaplain (COL) Mitchell I. Lewis, discussing the fleet.



Col Derosier welcomes Mayor George Flaggs to the ceremony.

successful season to this unique crew of men and women who perform an outstanding, unique job.

Vicksburg, sitting on a hill high above and beyond the river, provides an excellent view of the quarterboats and MSU crew as they pass along the river at its city front.

The MSU is the only one of its kind in the world and performs one of the most important jobs in the Corps' river stabilization program. This unique one-of-a-kind crew places articulated concrete mats along the river banks of the Mississippi River to control erosion.

Its fleet consists of towboats, quarter boats, and a

dredge, including the motor vessels BENYAURD, WILLIAM JAMES, and HARRISON, and other floating plants. The MSU is known as a floating city that houses and feeds its employees and has the capabilities to provide all of the electricity and potable water needed.

Inland waterway navigation is a crucial mission for the Corps. The MSU's responsibilities are to maintain more than 800 miles of navigable channels and harbors to ensure safe, cost-effective, dependable, and environmentally sustainable transportation of vessels within our country's inland waterways. ◀

Community Outreach

District Continues Tradition of Partnering

Photos by Alfred Dulaney

Partnering with local schools



Community Outreach

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

Photos by Alfred Dulaney



Col Derosier greets representatives of charitable organizations.



CFC Kickoff

A sampling of chili and desserts followed the CFC Kickoff ceremony. Team members decided whose chili or dessert was best. There were plenty willing to judge!



Dessert Bake-Off winners were left to right, 2nd place Julie Vicars, 1st place Spendlinda Lake, and 3rd place Jamie Baker.



Chili Cook-Off winners were left to right, 3rd place Velma Grant, 1st place Greg Raimondo, and 2nd place Stephanie Doyal.



ENGINEER'S DAY



Photos by Alfred Dulaney

Vicksburg Leadership Development Program Class Leaves Legacy Through Commemorative Plaque and Community Outreach

By Brooke Southerland,
Tammy Rutherford and
Jamie Baker
Photo by Alfred Dulaney

The 2015-2016 Class of the Vicksburg Leadership Development Program (VLDP) had a productive and exciting year. Orientation was held at Eagle Ridge with 11 participants who learned about different leadership styles and participated in team-building exercises.

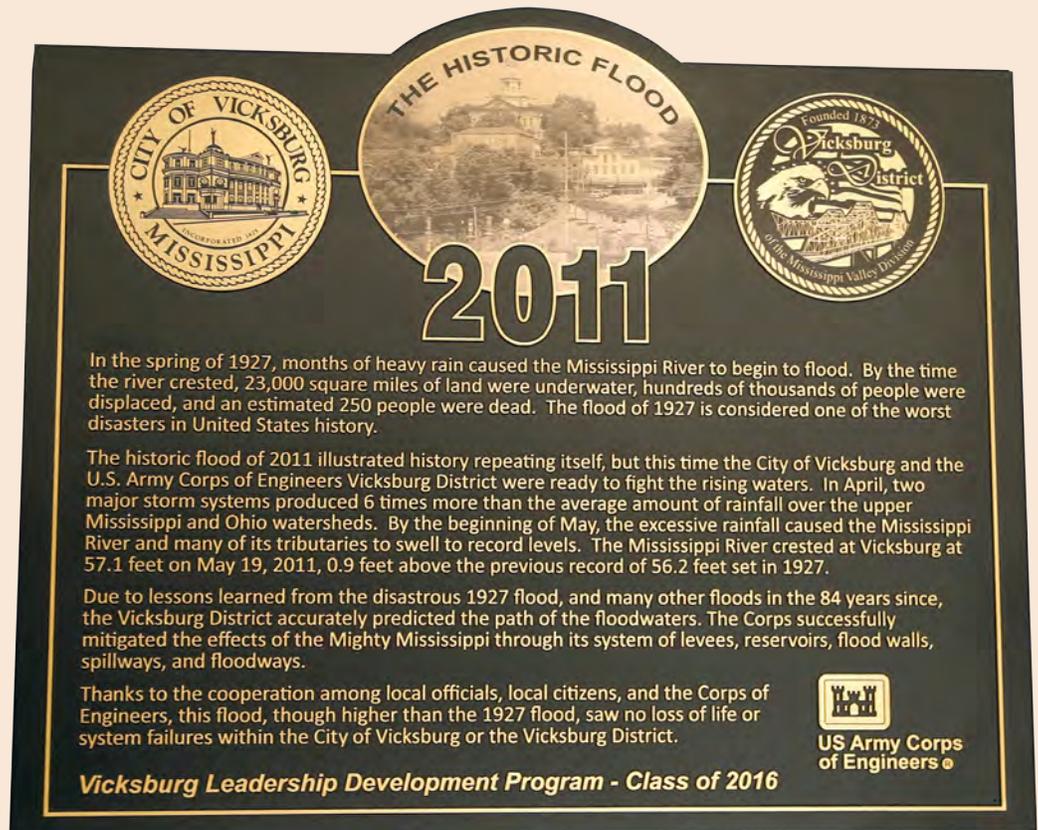
During the course of the year, the VLDP members toured several Corps sites, including the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), Lake Ouachita, Blakely Mountain Dam and Power Plant, Grand Ecore, Lock and Dam #5, and Bayou Bodcau. These visits afforded the members opportunities to see how various other Corps counterparts work together to provide our nation with power, flood protection, recreational opportunities, and national security. The class also developed the District 101 lecture series that will enhance knowledge of the Corps and the District, especially for new team members.

The VLDP members were also ready for the challenge of creating a worthwhile legacy project to benefit the District for years to come. The winter flood of 2016 brought to mind the historic flood of 2011. The tremendous amount of work that the District performed during the flood of 2011 to keep the cities/citizens safe along the Mississippi River provided the class the idea for the legacy project. The class chose to commemorate the event by creating a plaque to tell the story of the flood and the District's response. The

plaque will be mounted on the city flood wall, reminding all visitors to the river front of the historic flood of 2011.

Members of the graduating class included K.C. Ellis, Dana Foxworth, Jeremy Herring, Brian Johnson, Abe Kidder, Will McRae, Joey Minter, Jason Mothershed, Crissy Neal, Tammy Smith, and Brooke Southerland. The class included team members within engineering & construction division, resource management, operations division, including field personnel from Sardis Lake, Lake Ouachita, Monroe Area Office, and the Red River Waterway.

The 2015-2016 VLDP class graduation ceremony was held during Founder's Day on August 19th, which was hosted by the VLDP members. Col. Michael C. Derosier proudly awarded each member with Commander's coins and a framed Certificate of Graduation from the 2015-2016 Vicksburg Leadership Development Program. ◀



District Announces Annual Engineer's Day Awards

By Shirley J. Smith
 Photos by Alfred Dulaney

The District recently hosted its annual Engineer's Day Awards ceremony at District Headquarters.

Charles F. Pinkard, of hydraulics branch of Engineering and Construction Division, received the Vicksburg District's Employee of the Year Award. Pinkard received this award for his outstanding ability, dedicated service, and tireless efforts in providing efficient planning, design, and construction of the Mississippi River revetment and training structures program for navigation and flood control.

Among other team members receiving awards were:

William N. Bradley, deputy chief of Engineering and Construction Division, was the recipient of the Commander's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity. He has afforded opportunities for minorities to pursue engineering career paths and continues to support the program through mentoring, coaching, and recruitment.

Ryan D. Reves of the geotechnical branch of Engineering and Construction Division received the Engineer Award

for his exceptional performance as lead engineer for the inspection and dam safety section, geotechnical branch, Engineering and Construction Division, from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016. His leadership and technical competence in geotechnical engineering allows the District to effectively execute its mission in dam safety for each of its dams and locks and dams.

Marty J. Reynolds of Operations Division's Lake Greeson Field Office was the recipient of the Park Ranger of the Year Award for his dedicated service as a natural resource specialist for Lake Greeson's Environmental Stewardship and Natural Resource Management programs. He has provided superior leadership interfacing with customers, colleagues and stakeholders.

Emily McCrory of the Mississippi Project Management Office and Zachary N. Lynch of the river stabilization section of Engineering and Construction Division both received the Student of the Year Award. McCrory is
(Continued on page 16)



Col Cross with Charles Pinkard



Col Cross with William Bradley



Col Cross with Ryan Reves



Col Cross with Marty Reynolds



Col Cross with Emily McCrory



Col Cross with Michelle Moore

(Engineer's Day Awards, continued from page 15)
 recognized for exceptional service while serving as the workforce management specialist intern. Lynch is recognized for his demonstration of excellence while performing his duties and for serving as a role model for other student team members.

Michelle Moore of Engineering and Construction Division received the STEM Employee of the Year Award for exhibiting outstanding dedication and technical ability while executing the Vicksburg District's goals and missions in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Amy J. Shultz and **Charles E. Stokes, Jr.** both received the Commander's Public Service Award. Shultz distinguished herself by promoting the Corps of Engineers' Missions and Programs through media and personal contacts educating the public on remaining "Water Wise" and practicing proper water safety techniques to be safe around and on the water. Stokes received the award for his exceptional service to the Vicksburg District's emergency response during the 2015 and 2016 flood events. His knowledge and valued expertise were instrumental in providing a direct line of communication among the Corps, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, State of Louisiana.

Johnny Kisner received the Governor's Recognition Award as "Top Cop" for 2016 for his dedication to serving and protecting the community and the great State of Mississippi.

Abe Kidder received the Volunteer Leadership Award.

Jesse A. Huskey received the Wage Grade Leadership Award.

Brian Everitt received the Scientist Award.

Richardt "Rick" Shelton received the Professional Award.

Michelle A. Green and **Lelia K. Stamps** each received the Administrator Award.

Jarsh "Lin" Lepard and **Joseph L. Ponder** each received the Paddle Wheel Award.

Richard A. Jones received the Emergency Management Award.

Arel Simpson received the Regulator of the Year Award.



Col Cross with Amy Shultz



Col Cross with Charles Stokes



Col Cross with Johnny Kisner



Col Cross with Abe Kidder



Col Cross with Rick Shelton



Col Cross with Michelle Green

Honorary Team Awards were presented to the MMC/ GIS flood Inundation Mapping Cadre Team; the Regulatory Outreach PDT; Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project-Lock and Dam personnel received the Wage Grade Team Award; and the Dive Team received the Team Safety Award.

Achievement Medals for Civilian Service were presented to Ryan Hoben, Dana Moree, Matthew L. Parrish,

Brian D. Jordan, Dereck Redwine, Johnathan B. Silas, and Gary Lemmers.

Commander's Awards for Civilian Service were presented to Kristopher Ellis, Janice Flowers, Robert "Skip" Martin, Jeremy Stokes, William Lister, Angela Williams, and Jeremy M. Herring. ◀



Col Cross presents the Paddle Wheel Award to Lin Lepard.



Col Cross presents Regulator of the Year Award to Arel Simpson.



Col Cross presents Team Award to the MMC/GIS Flood Inundation Mapping Cadre Team.



Col Cross presents the Wage Grade Team Award to the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project - Lock and Dam personnel.



Col Cross presents Team Award to the Regulatory Outreach PDT.



Col Cross presents the Team Safety Award to the Dive Team.

Safety Chief Retires After 47 Years of Service

By Pam Smith
Photos by Alfred Dulaney

After more than four decades of service to the federal government, Donny Weaver retired September 30, 2016. Weaver's retirement brought closure to a long, successful and memorable career where he spent 43 of those years at the Vicksburg District.

During his tenure, Weaver held a variety of positions and leadership roles. His career began in the plant branch at the Vicksburg Harbor in 1973, where he built mud boxes (temporary levee extensions). He rose through the ranks to finish his tenure as the Chief of Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) for six years.

Throughout his many accomplishments, he strived to strengthen the District's safety program and foster a safe and healthy work environment for all. While serving as motor vehicle and heavy equipment licensing agent from 1974 to 1977, he recognized a need for the hearing impaired and took the initiative to implement the first Hearing Conservation Program at the District.

He completed the Safety Intern Program in 1977, which provided him an opportunity in the safety community of practice with travel and new experiences.

Weaver's job also afforded him travel abroad. His first overseas tour was with the 8th Infantry Division (Mechanical) as the Safety Manager at Bad Kreuznach, FRG in Western Germany (1983-1985). He then traveled to Vicenza, Italy, where he served one year as Chief of SETAF/5th SupCom, which included responsibilities in Turkey and Greece.

Returning to Vicksburg as the District's Assistant Chief of SOH from 1986 to 2010 did not end Weaver's travel adventures. In 1987 he was stationed at Incerlink Air Base, Turkey, where he developed a safety program for Corps units located throughout Turkey.

Having spent five months of 1989 in Alaska overseeing the transfer of the Army base from Anchorage to Fairbanks, his last overseas tour was to Kuwait in 1991 where he served as Safety Officer for the recovery efforts there.

During his memorable career, Weaver deployed to support emergency response and recovery efforts for the Vicksburg District and other Corps Districts. His major deployment accomplishments were realized in his home state where he led clean-up efforts along the Gulf Coast in 2005-2006 during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Other deployment assignments included work in Baton

Rouge during the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav in 2008; Smithville, Mississippi tornado of 2011; and the Souris River flood event in Minot, North Dakota in 2011.

In the more than four decades since Weaver began
(Continued on page 20)



Pictured with Weaver is his wife, Virginia, also a District retiree (RM).

District Hosts 12th Annual Founder's Day

**Gallery of Distinguished Employees

**Length of Service Recipients

**2015-2016 VLDP Graduates

By Shirley J. Smith
Photos by Alfred Dulaney

The District recently held its annual Founder's Day ceremony at district headquarters building, hosted by the 2015-2016 Vicksburg Leadership Development Program class members. This year marks the District's 143 years of service to the nation and is the 12th annual ceremony observed at the District.

The ceremony began with applause from the audience in recognition of guests and District retirees.

Opening remarks were by District Commander, Col. Michael C. Derosier, who stated, "Welcome to honorees, families, friends, other District members, and our District team members. It is a wonderful day to celebrate and honor those who we have served with. It really feels like a Hall of Fame Induction. Regarding our honorees and length of service recipients it's really about a couple of things in my opinion. It recognizes excellence but it goes beyond that. It is about the Corps value and the culture of our District and organization.

"In a few minutes we will honor some mentors who earned the respect of many and touched the lives of many. We will induct you - making you a part of our fabric forever."

Following Col. Derosier's remarks, the following persons were inducted into the District's Gallery of Distinguished Employees:

Henry H. Black



He began his 36-year career with the Corps in 1975 through 2011. He became District Counsel in 1987, and served with distinction in that capacity until his retirement. He graduated from the

University of Mississippi in 1970 and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1974. As a leader and mentor, he was a strong advocate for the professional development of his staff attorneys. His is an enduring legacy of service, dedication, and respect for the law.

William B. Hobgood



He began his 36-year career with the Corps in 1967 through 2003. He served as regional economist in the economics and social analysis branch; Chief, economics and social analysis branch; Assistant Chief, Planning Division; Chief, Planning Di-

vision; and retired as Chief, Operations Division. He is also an Army Reservist retired at the rank of Major General and Commanding General of the 412th Army Engineer Command. His military decorations include the Army Reserve Component Overseas Ribbon with numeral 12; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 10-year device; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster; Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; the Legion of Merit; the Silver Order of the DeFleury Medal, and the Distinguished Service Medal. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business and a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from Louisiana State University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

(Continued on page 20)

(District Hosts Founder's Day, concluded from page 19)

Ronald C. Goldman



He began his career with the Corps in 1977 as a civil engineer in the hydraulics branch of Engineering Division. He received his Professional Engineer license in 1981. In 1987 he was promoted to Chief, water control management section of

Engineering Division until 1996 when he was selected as the Chief, hydrological engineering section of Engineering Division. In 2000, he served as Chief, automation/communication branch. Two years later, he was selected as Chief, hydraulics branch. In 2007, he was tasked by Corps Headquarters to build a virtual team to perform modeling, mapping, and consequences assessments for Corps dams and levees. For three years, he worked to develop and establish the Modeling, Mapping, and Consequences Production Center (MMC). In 2011, he was selected as the permanent director of the MMC. He deserves credit for building the MMC into a premier organization that tackles challenges head-on and leads experts in producing high-quality modeling, mapping and consequences products. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University.

Gerald R. McDonald



He began his 38-year career with the Corps in 1965 through 2003. In 1966, he was assigned to DeGray Resident Office for the construction of DeGray Dam. In 1972, he was reassigned to the Vidalia Area Office as Assistant Area Engineer and in

1979 he was promoted to Vidalia Area Engineer, the capacity in which he served until his retirement. As Area Engineer, he managed all Corps contract construction within the Vidalia area including such notable projects as the Tensas-Cocodrie, Fool River, and Ha Ha Bayou Pumping plants; the enlargements and channel improvement dike/revetment projects; the Geotechnical and ITL laboratories at the Engineer Research and Development Center; Bayou Rapides Pumping Plant; Natchez Bluff Stabilization project; and the Delta and Vidalia mat casting operations. He was the "face" of the Corps in the Vidalia area during numerous flood events.

Following the induction into the Gallery, Col. Derosier presented Length of Service Awards to District team members with 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service. The presentations were followed by the graduation ceremony for members of the 2015-2016 Vicksburg Leadership Development Program. ◀

(Safety Chief Retires, concluded from page 18)

working at the Vicksburg Harbor, he witnessed many changes in the field of safety in the workplace, including the establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in 1971.

When Donny Weaver said his last goodbyes and exited the building on September 30, 2016, he carried with him immeasurable experience and knowledge in the field of safety and occupational health.

Best Wishes to Donny for a long and healthy retirement. ◀

Col Derosier presents Weaver with Certificate of Retirement.





Enid Lake hosts Annual Fishing Day for Physically Challenged

By Chris Hannaford

Photos by Chris Hannaford and Tom Hoff

On September 10, 2016, the Enid Lake rangers, Chickasaw Hill Volunteer Association, and two officers of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks held the 25th Annual Fishing Day for the Physically Challenged at Chickasaw Hill Recreation Area. Sixty-Three physically challenged individuals, children and adults, were in attendance, as well 75 other individuals including participants, friends and family.

The weather was great for fun and fishing, followed by a fish fry and awarding of door prizes.

The Chickasaw Hill Volunteer Association along with residents from the local community provided pontoon boats, bait, and poles for the fishing trip, and all the essentials for a first-class fish fry. During the event, volunteers also assisted with loading and unloading participants from boats, assisted them with fishing and prepared lunch.

This annual event gives individuals, who usually do not have opportunity, the enjoyment of fishing in the great outdoors. The staff at Enid Lake thanks all sponsors and volunteers for donations, time and hard work. Without the sponsors and volunteers the Annual Fishing Day for the Physically Challenged would not be possible. ◀



Top photo - Enid Lake volunteers along with End Lake park rangers assist participants onto pontoon boats for the Fishing Day.

Bottom photo - Participants enjoy a beautiful and relaxing morning of fishing.

Corps Completes Dewatering of Sardis Dam

Cofferdam being built.

By Matthew Pierce

Photos by Carter Brandon

Every five years during the “dewatering” process, the outlet system of Sardis dam at Sardis Lake is shut down to permit engineers and safety experts to enter the outlet channel and inspect the structural integrity of the gates and conduit.

Proper maintenance is crucial for all equipment and facilities to operate at their fullest potential. This is true for a 10 ft. x 10 ft tent pad, or the 15,300 ft. x 100 ft. earth-filled Sardis Dam. This August was the time for such maintenance and inspection of several vital components of Sardis Dam.

In order to complete this dewater operation, a cofferdam was erected at the end of the outlet basin to hold back the

residual water of the lower lake. Multiple pump systems were deployed at the cofferdam to remove water from the outlet basin to allow work on the stilling basin, concrete baffles and other components of the outlet structure. After the flow had been stopped from the Upper Lake into the outlet, the gates had been sealed, and the water was pumped out of the outlet basin. A multi-disciplined team of engineers from the District inspected the outlet basin structures and the 560-foot long concrete conduit which extends from the gatehouse to the outlet. Engineers from the Engineer Research and Development Center also assisted with the work by employing deep penetrating sonar to detect any structural defects behind the conduit walls.

All repairs to the outlet structure and conduit were minor and were completed quickly and safely by maintenance personnel. A civil engineering technician, assisted by park rangers and natural resource specialists, performed round-the-clock readings of the relief wells and piezometers in accordance with dam inspection operations.

During the shutdown of the gates and the subsequent draining of the Lower Lake, natural resource specialists and contract maintenance personnel were able to complete maintenance on a multitude of shoreline and safety features on the lower lake. They cleared brush and debris to enhance the view and overall safety of visitors. This was also an opportunity to replace buoys and depth markers and



Pumps set to begin dewatering process.

Big-Eared Bat and Southeastern Myotis at Sardis Lake

By Jessi Vannatta West
Photos by Jessi West and Shea Staten

Sardis Lake is home to two species of rare bats – Rafinesque’s Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) and Southeastern Myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*). Both bat species are using adjacent bridge abutments near the lake as their roosting site. Becky Rosamond with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and her team captured both species at these bridge abutments using harp traps.

Harp traps contain strings of line that impede the bat while it is flying out of its roost. This causes the bat to tumble down into a bag at the bottom of the trap where it is contained until processing. These bags typically have roost flaps that allow the bat to crawl up the bag and roost comfortably underneath the flaps until they are removed for processing.

These bats are being captured for a dissertation research project being conducted by Jessi West of Tennessee Technological University. This research project is looking at the range-wide population genetic structure of both *C. rafinesquii* and *M. austroriparius*. To complete this study, Jessi has been travelling across much of the southeastern United States to capture both species of bats for tissue sample collection. She has also been collaborating with individuals across the southeastern United States who have assisted her with collecting these samples. One such individual is Becky Rosamond who made the trip to Sardis Lake to collect these samples for Jessi.

Sardis Lake is one of several sites in Mississippi where tissue samples were collected. The samples being collected will be used for genetic analyses to ascertain population genetic structure for the entire range of both species of bats. ◀

Top photo - George Harris (Sardis Lake) displays bats roosting underneath the roost flap in the bag of the harp trap.

Middle photo - Rafinesque’s big-eared bat

Bottom photo - Southeastern Myotis



(Sardis Dam, concluded from page 22)

perform grading work on swimming beaches and install new buoys at the lower lake weir.

Park rangers handled traffic, secured restricted areas, and served as an extra set of eyes and ears for safely transporting equipment and materials in and out of work areas. Rangers also communicated with members of the public by informing them of the ongoing process and ensuring their safety.

The multitude of recreational opportunities available at Sardis Lake are made possible by the proper maintenance of the dam and its associated structures.

After all the repairs were completed and safety inspections passed, the cofferdam was removed and the flow of the Little Tallahatchie River was opened upon the Lower Lake. This repair work provides flood control and world class recreational opportunities for the visitors of Sardis Lake. ◀

District Field Offices & Services

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Vicksburg District
4155 E. Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183
www.mvk.usace.army.mil
email: cemvk-pa@army.us.mil
Twitter: @vicksburgusace
601-631-5000**

Lake Ouachita (501) 767-2101
Lake Greeson (870) 285-2151
DeGray Lake (870) 246-5501
Sardis Lake (662) 563-4531
Arkabutla Lake (662) 562-6261
Enid Lake (662) 563-4571
Grenada Lake (662) 226-5911
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JBJ Waterway (318) 677-2673

Ouachita-Black Rivers, Monroe
Navigation Project Office, &
LA Field Office (318) 322-6391
Corps Wetland Permits (601) 631-7071
Apply, ask questions, or report violations
Contracting & Bids (601) 631-7684
Vendors, status of bids, specs
Community Support (601) 631-5223
Tours, speakers, volunteers
Historical Questions & Research (601) 634-7023
Mississippi River History Center
Real Estate Issues (601) 631-5979
Corps impacts to your property
Employment Questions (601) 631-5858
Vacancies, status, qualifications
Historical Photographs (601) 631-5021
Environmental (601) 631-7156

Other Vicksburg Engineer/Federal Organizations

Mississippi Valley Division (601) 634-5760
Engineer Research and Development Center (601) 634-2504
412th Engineer Command (601) 636-1686
168th Engineer Group (601) 313-5290
Vicksburg National Military Park (601) 636-0583
Marine Safety Detachment Vicksburg (601) 636-5516
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (601) 629-6607

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District PAO
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

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