



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Rock Island District

# Tower Times

Volume 26

No. 8

July 2004





# Spotlight on the District

## Kent Stenmark

Chief, Emergency Management/Security Office

By Mark Kane

Some people have jobs that rarely put them in high-stress or emergency situations, while others very position description lets people know that they have a job that puts them in one of those situations on a regular basis. Kent Stenmark is the chief of the Emergency Management and Security Office division, and (you guessed it) his job is the District's leadership position in relation to emergency and security related activities.

Stenmark says the elements of his job are exactly what he likes about it, but for reasons you probably won't find in his job description.

"I enjoy what I do because of the variety of the work that I get involved in," said Stenmark. "You never really know what you're going to be asked to do next. Disasters and emergencies are unpredictable. It makes the day-to-day activities very interesting. It helps a lot if you're adaptable and flexible to whatever comes your way."

Stenmark said his job requires him to ensure the District is prepared to respond to any disaster or emergency that may occur. He does this by making sure all response team members of the District are trained as well as possible to work specific tasks during an emergency event. These tasks can include nearly all disciplines that make up the District workforce.

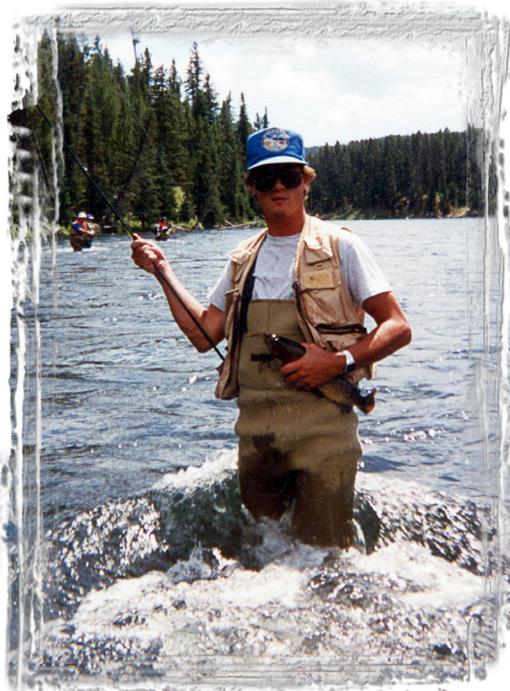
"In the past we've focused the majority of our response and recovery efforts toward floods, but since 9-11 we've shifted our thoughts to an all hazards approach," said Stenmark. "All types of disasters, whether natural or manmade, become an event where the Corps can provide extensive response and recovery assistance."

During those events people's lives are greatly affected and the Corps' interaction

with those people comes with the job.

"There's a great deal of satisfaction knowing you have helped someone out in what is probably their greatest time of need," said Stenmark.

Images of floods and sandbags more than likely come to mind when a person thinks about the Corps' duties in relation to emergency management, but Stenmark says it goes much further.



**Kent Stenmark poses with his catch during an early-90s fishing trip. One of Stenmark's favored hobbies is fly-fishing.**

"The Corps offers so much expertise that it's become a recognized resource to draw upon during most any type of situation," said Stenmark. "An interesting development over the past few years is that our responsibilities no longer lie just within the District boundaries. We've shifted from a local response organization to a national response team and on

occasions, we assist on an international basis. The efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan are good examples of our international involvement."

Stenmark became the chief of Emergency Management/Security Office May 10, after working for two years as the chief of EM/SL in the Charleston District, in Charleston, S.C. He previously worked in the District EM/SL office from August 1990 to July 1992.

For a quick summation, Stenmark said he's lived in nine states during his lifetime. He was originally born in Little Rock, Ark., called Las Cruces, N.M., home from his grade school years through college, and currently lives in Milan, Ill.

Stenmark earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M., and his master's of business administration from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

While he was attending NMSU he came away with more than a college degree, he met his wife Beth.

"We met in college and have been together ever since," said Stenmark. "We're in our 24th year together."

Stenmark's hobbies include an occasional round of golf, woodworking, fly-fishing (which he said he used to do quite a bit when he lived in Wyoming and Colorado), and the enjoyment of vintage cars.

"I appreciate well-restored classic cars and enjoy going to car shows," said Stenmark. "I'm mostly interested in the cars from the 60s and 70s era. I've owned several. It's probably about time I got another."

Stenmark's advice to anyone reading this article is, "Don't forget to take time each and every day to smell the roses. Life is too short to not appreciate what you have." 🍷

***Tower Times***  
U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers  
Rock Island District  
Vol. 26 No. 8  
July 2004

District Engineer  
Col. Duane P. Gapinski

Editor  
Mark Kane

Chief, Public Affairs  
Ron Fournier

This newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Tower Times are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Rock Island District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It is published monthly using offset press by the Public Affairs Office, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clock Tower Building, Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004. Phone (309) 794-5730. Circulation 1,500.

The deadline for submitting articles for the Tower Times is the 7th of the preceding month. Send articles to Editor, Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL, 61204-2004.

The Tower Times is printed on recycled paper.

On the web, in living color, at:  
<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil>

July 2004

# Tower Times

## Contents

**Kids Turn Out at  
Coralville to Paint  
Water Safety Murals**

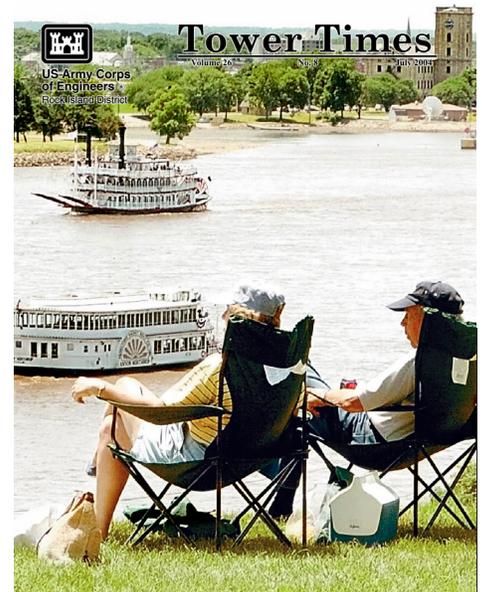
**5**



**Grand Excursion 6 - 7**



**Record Numbers Attend  
District Fishing Clinic 11**



### On the Cover

Spectators in Prospect Park, Davenport, Iowa, watch the Grand Excursion 2004 parade of boats June 25, as they pass in front of the District's Clock Tower Building and Arsenal Island. Five riverboats cruised the Mississippi River in the Quad-Cities to officially launch the weekend event. Photo by Jeff Cook, Quad-City Times.



# Crear Takes Command of Division

Mississippi Valley Division outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Don Riley, left, smiles as Brig. Gen. Robert Crear speaks at a change-of-command ceremony. Photo by Jon Giffin, The Vicksburg Post.

By Mark Kane

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear took over command of the Mississippi Valley Division and the presidency of the Mississippi River Commission June 23 from the outgoing commanding officer, Brig. Gen. Don Riley in a ceremony officiated by the former Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers.

Crear comes to his new assignment from previous duty as division engineer of the Corps' Southwestern Division, Dallas, Texas. He has previously held a variety of command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, including serving as commander, Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil, from January 2003 to November 2003 during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He also served as district engineer for the Corps' Vicksburg District from 1998 to 2001.

He returns to a leadership role where he directs Corps work along the Mississippi River.

"It is a great day to be a soldier in the service of a great nation at war," Crear said in a packed meeting room at the George A. Morris Army Reserve Center. "It is an understatement to say this is a significant day in the career of the Crear family."

His wife, Reatha, and their four children joined Crear at the ceremony. He noted that he and his wife have been married 35

years and this is the 14th move they have made to a new duty assignment.

"There will be a lot of people I will be grateful to for making this day possible," Crear said.

After growing up in Vicksburg, Miss., Crear joined the Army and became an engineer in the Corps.

While Crear served as the commander of the Southwest Division, he was tapped to command the Corps of Engineers efforts to put out fires set on Iraqi oil wells and to restore production of crude oil in that country in the wake of the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Crear is the 36th division commander of the Mississippi Valley Division.

As his follow-on assignment, Riley will be assigned as the Acting Director of Civil Works in Washington, D.C.

During the ceremony, Flowers presented the Army's Distinguished Service Medal and the Silver de Fleury Medal, the highest award presented by the Corps regiment to a Corps officer, to Riley.

Crear thanked Flowers for picking him to command the Division and commission. "It is not often that a soldier gets a chance to serve his country at home," he continued.

Flowers said it was great to be in Vicksburg and, in his last act as chief of engineers, to officiate at the change of

command for a key division in the Corps.

"None more key than the Mississippi Valley Division and the Mississippi River Commission," he said.

Flowers went on to thank Riley for his service.

"He has been an outstanding leader and his contributions to the Division and the Mississippi River Commission are many," Flowers said.

Turning to Crear, Flowers said the division is getting a great leader.

"He did a tremendous job in his most recent assignment as commander of the Southwestern Division," Flowers said.

As MVD Commander, Crear will be responsible for the Corps' water resources programs in a 370,000-square-mile area that includes portions of 12 states; its boundary extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. District offices are headquartered in St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans.

In addition, Crear will be president-designee of the Mississippi River Commission, the presidentially appointed agency that oversees the comprehensive Mississippi River and Tributaries flood control and navigation project, as well as the entire Mississippi River and its tributaries.

*Fred Messina, The Vicksburg Post, contributed to this article.*

# Kids Turn Out at Coralville to Paint Water Safety Murals

By Mark Kane

**M**ore than 23 students from Wilson Middle School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, painted four different water safety murals as part of the reservoir's efforts to heighten water-safety awareness.

The effort took place May 26 during National Safe Boating Week, which was held May 22 through 28.

Park Ranger Jeff Peck, Coralville Lake, said the event went well.

"The messages are strong and very well done," said Peck. "The kids worked as a team to get this done."

Peck said the organization of the event started with him visiting Wilson Middle School as part of a water safety presentation.

"We talked about Water Safety in four parts," said Peck. "Swimming safety, dam safety, boater safety, and water rescue. The kids then created a water safety message, and the teachers and I selected the messages that we would use. We took the message cross-curricular to language arts, for logos and meaningful messages. We took it through P.E. for the knowing how to swim. Then we added the art for the visual images that make something strong. What the kids came up with was fantastic. There were over a hundred water safety posters created by the seventh graders and it was hard to just pick a few. I think working with the kids like this is fantastic as it sets the message at an early age that personal floatation devices save lives."

Peck said the murals are located at the entrance fee station; on the way to the boat ramp; on the wing wall of the dam adjacent to the boat ramp at West Overlook; and on the asphalt on the way to the beach. ■



Students from Wilson Middle School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, break out the brushes and get with the painting at Coralville Lake during a day when the message of day was definitely water safety. The students painted four water-safety murals in May that continue to remind visitors about water safety to this day. Photos by Jeff Peck, Coralville Lake.



# DISTRICT PARTICIPATES IN GRAND EXCURSION



By Mark Kane

**T**he Rock Island District's locks played host to seven illustrious riverboats that for many brought thoughts of days long ago.

The riverboats were navigating the waters of the Mississippi River at the same time, and to the beat of the same drum as part of the 2004 Grand Excursion, a reenactment of the 1854 Grand Excursion's route up the Mississippi from the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

Many of the riverboats navigated from as far south as New Orleans, La., and in doing so, eventually made their way through every one of the District's 12 locks.

The District kicked its involvement up several notches in the Quad-City area when the riverboats congregated for its grand flotilla, a title used when multiple paddlewheel riverboats come together for an event. Between June 25 and June 27, employees from the Mississippi River

Project Office and Visitor Center coordinated the Rock Island Arsenal Island historic tours along with the Arsenal Museum, Col. Davenport Home, Arsenal public affairs, and Arsenal security.

Wendy Frohlich, Mississippi River Visitor Center, said the Grand Excursion tour bus route ran from its hub at the Isle of Capri in Bettendorf, Iowa, and ran continuously to Arsenal Island on June 25 and 26.

"More than 300 people took advantage of the tours," said Frohlich.

She also said the Visitor Center provided customer service, Locks and Dam 15 tours, as well as Arsenal Island Historic tours.

"The staff put in a lot of time and effort to make this all possible," said Frohlich. "More than 1,100 people came through the center, 14 lock and dam tours were given to 247 people, and four bike tours were given to 43 people during the Grand Excursion weekend."

Frohlich said the Visitor Center was advertised as one of the best places in the Quad-City to view the grand flotilla, which (during the Quad-Cities portion of the Grand Excursion) was ultimately made up of five riverboats; the Anson Northup, Harriet Bishop, Celebration Belle, Julia Belle Swain, and The Spirit of Peoria. Both the Mississippi Queen and the Delta Queen riverboats were delayed in Hannibal, Mo., by high water, but eventually locked through all of the District's locks and joined the Grand Excursion in Dubuque, Iowa and St. Paul, Minn. The Jonathan Padelford and Betsey Northrup riverboats also joined the Grand Excursion in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn.

While the Visitor Center was buzzing, so was the Clock Tower Building across the street with visitors picking up magnifying glasses to peer at historic and original photographs by Henry Bosse.

Bosse was a photographer who took nearly 300 photographs of scenes along

# AND EXCURSION



A visitor diligently looks at one of the 75 photos on display at the Henry Bosse photo exhibit June 26 at the Clock Tower Building. Photo by Mark Kane.

The Spirit of Peoria, Anson Northrup, and Harriet Bishop riverboats, all part of the 2004 Grand Excursion, lock through the main lock at Locks and Dam 15.



the Upper Mississippi River between 1883 and 1892, while the District employed him as a photograph-draftsman. The majority of the photographs were bound into albums to chronicle the river during a pivotal period of its history. A recent revival of interest in these photographs has led to belated recognition of Bosse as one of the foremost landscape photographers of the late nineteenth century.

Employees from Information Management put a lot of work into organizing the photos for the five-day exhibit, which debuted June 19 and 20, and finished during the Grand Excursion June 25 through the 27. The display, joined 14 other area libraries for a special promotion of the Grand Excursion.

Nearly 400 people from across the country viewed more than 75 photographs that were part of the exhibit held in Conference Rooms A, B and C of the Clock Tower Building.

Bob Romic, IM, contributed greatly to

the exhibit and co-staffed it much of the time with Steve Vacek, Mississippi River Project Office. Romic said visitors to the showing also had the pleasant opportunity of meeting the grand nephew of Henry Bosse, William Quaintance, of Moline, Ill.

"Mr. Quaintance briefly spoke about Bosse's style of photography and other interesting topics pertaining to Henry Bosse's life," said Romic.

Romic said most of the visitors that viewed the photographs were pleased with comments such as "Amazing," "Beautiful," "Fantastic," and "Splendid."

The photographs on display were from two volumes of a three-volume set the District owns. The third volume is missing.

"With the overwhelming enthusiastic response from the visitors and suggestions and offers of a larger venue for exhibiting all of Bosse's photographs,

maybe the increased interest could spur some action in finding the missing volume," said Romic. "Locating those prints would truly be cause to bring the Bosse prints out from under lock and key again and allow the public to see the missing prints, as well as all of his other photos."

Bosse's photographs can be viewed on the District's Internet at:

[www.mvr.usace.army.mil/bosse/bosse.htm](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/bosse/bosse.htm).

**Of Important Note:** It is possible the missing volume of Henry Bosse photos was inadvertently misplaced and is in the possession of an unsuspecting employee or retiree that may think they have a copy, but actually have the original. If so, it would be the only version of the volume in existence. Please check your areas when you get the chance. If any District employee or retiree has any information in regard to the missing volume, please contact Bob Romic at 309-794-5576.

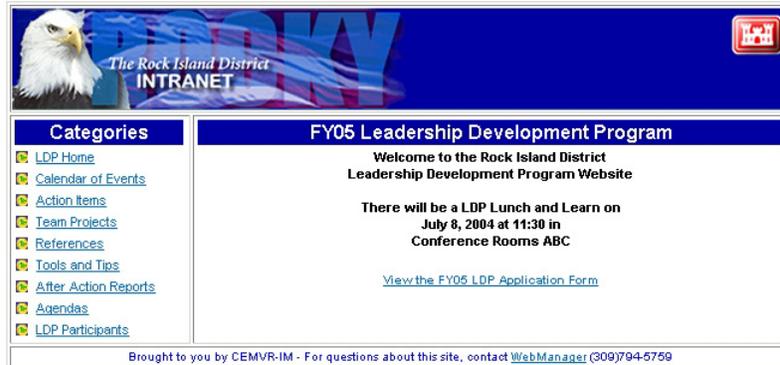
# Leadership Development Program Seeks Applicants

By Col. Duane Gapinski, District Engineer

As some of you are aware, the District's Leadership Development Committee is now accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 05 Leadership Development Program. LDP is a great program for those who have the opportunity to participate. It develops sound leadership skills and provides valuable insight from mentors.

The District has had two previous LDP classes, which were administered by a contractor. The FY05 LDP is going to operate differently from the previous two LDPs by using internal District resources to plan and execute the program administration.

New this year is the Leadership Development Committee, which develops the different components of the LDP and makes decisions pertaining to the program. The committee is made up of 11 employees, including two members from each previous LDP



class, and other appointed District employees.

Major program changes include: the program is now open to GS-09 through GS-12, will include eight to 10 students, and will run from October 2004 to September 2005. However, not everything has changed: the FY05 LDP will still contain university-level classes, will sponsor field

trips, and will have numerous retreats.

Applications are being accepted until July 31. Applicants who do not meet all the requirements may use a waiver and their individual situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on this year's opportunity you can visit the LDP website at: <http://mvrapp2.mvr.usace.army.mil/LDP/default.cfm>.

I encourage all eligible employees to apply. 🇺🇸

---

## TRAVELERS MAY DONATE FREQUENT-FLIER MILES TO TROOPS

By Mark Kane

Operation Hero Miles provides a way for you to help our troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan by donating your unused frequent flyer miles.

The program, which started in September 2003 when the Pentagon started giving soldiers stationed in Iraq two-week leave, has become the largest "rest and recuperation" program since the Vietnam War. Service members participating in the two-week R and R leave program are flown free to Germany or three airports in the United States, Baltimore-Washington International, Dallas-Fort Worth, or Atlanta airports by the Defense Department.

More than 200 soldiers arrive at BWI daily as part of the R&R program, said Lt.

Col. Robert Hagen, Army spokesman.

Launched by Congressman C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger (D-Md.), whose district includes the Baltimore airport, the Hero Miles Web site lists participating airlines and provides information on how to donate frequent-flyer miles and how troops can receive complimentary tickets.

The latest news ... the Senate passed legislation making the program permanent.

"Our men and women in uniform are risking their lives for our country in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in other locations around the world," said Ruppersberger. "Their service is to be commended. I believe making 'Operation Hero Miles' permanent is the least we can do to make their personal lives a little easier. Service members will be able to quickly fly home

to handle an emergency and military family members will be able to quickly fly to see their injured loved one without worrying about how much it will cost. We believe this legislation will make a big difference in the lives of our military families in the years come."

Americans have donated their unused frequent flyer miles to the Department of Defense and the Fisher House Foundation to help troops travel home and spend quality time with their loved ones. Your extra miles today can help unite troops with their families tomorrow.

K.L. Vantran, American Forces Press Service, contributed to this article. 🇺🇸



**On the 'Net**

[www.heromiles.org](http://www.heromiles.org)



# Strock Assumes Command as 51st Chief of Engineers

By Mark Kane

**M**aj. Gen. Carl Strock took command of the Corps of Engineers and assumed leadership as the Chief of Engineers in a military ceremony on July 1 at Fort Myer, Va.

Strock replaced Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers who retired during the same ceremony after 35 years of Army service. Flowers served as the Army's 50th Chief of Engineers from Oct. 2000 until today. Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Army Chief of Staff, hosted the ceremony.

"General Flowers is a leader, and a warrior, and we are thankful for his dedicated service," said Schoomaker.

"The last four years, I've commanded a unique organization, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There's nothing else like it," said Flowers. "Unique in all the world, great civil servants, taking care of the nation and it's Armed Forces, and I'm enormously proud of all of them."

He acknowledged the many officers, non-commissioned officers and fellow Soldiers, who mentored him.

During the ceremony, Flowers and Strock passed the flag, symbolizing the change of command.

Strock is the 51st Chief of Engineers. The U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination as Chief of Engineers on June 25, with promotion to the rank of Lieutenant General. However, the promotion will not take place until later this summer.

"I am deeply honored and truly humbled to stand before you today," said Strock. "I am honored because there is no greater privilege than to be entrusted with command when your nation is at war."

Strock later addressed Corps employees through an e-mail that hit on some of

the changes that can be expected.

"Many people wonder what changes a new leader will make, so I will let you know up front," wrote Strock. "Simply put, I will not make any immediate changes in the direction that the 50th Chief set for us. It hardly seems possible that four years have passed since LTG Flowers joined our ranks, and we are just beginning to realize some of the results of his leadership and vision. During his tenure he increased our partnerships, formalized the Corps' ethic of environmental sustainability, activated a wartime division, and implemented USACE 2012. We will stay on that same path and will now consolidate the gains from changing our business processes and structure."

Strock also wrote about how challenging the times ahead will be.

"We are an Army and nation at war and we face fiscal constraints," wrote Strock. "The path we are taking will help us meet those challenges. We must continue to embrace change, but for right now it's important to maintain continuity as we continue the implementation of USACE 2012 and the fielding of P2. This includes maintaining our mission focus and ensuring that we are good stewards of our resources. In the near term, I will meet with Corps leaders, and I will also begin meeting with customers, partners and stakeholders to learn about their direction – their vision, priorities and issues. I also want to hear from each of you and will work with the staff to



**Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, hands the colors to Maj. Gen. Carl A. Strock, while Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers (third from the left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Balch (right), stand at attention, during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Retirement Review and Change of Command Ceremony at Fort Myer, Arlington, Va., on July 1. (Photo by F.T. Eyre, Corps of Engineers)**

develop a means to do that. In the interim, do not hesitate to drop me a note if there is a burning issue that you'd like me to look into."

Strock has served the Army 33 years. He was previously assigned as the Director of Civil Works, and the Director of Military Programs at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington D.C. He also served as Deputy Director of Operations for the Coalition Provisional Authority, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As Chief of Engineers he leads the world's largest public engineering agency with 35,000 employees. ■



## Around the District

### FEA Recognizes District Employees

The Quad City Federal Executive Association recognized 42 employees from nine federal agencies during its fourth annual awards luncheon.

The District employees awarded were: Thomas Lisco, Information Management, technical and professional; Donald Bawmann, Engineering Division, clerical and administrative; and Michael Robbins, Operations Division, trades and crafts.

Other District employees awarded included: Randall Braley and Rick Stebens, Construction Division; Mark Clark and Sarah Jones, Emergency Management/Security Office; Pete Corken, Dan Foltz, Mark Hoague, Brian Lane, Joel Peterson, Richard Rupert, Ray Tatro, and Charles Van Laarhoven, Engineering Division; Nancy Pierce, Logistics Management; Brett Call, Alois Devos, Lee Myers, and James Wilson, Operations Division; Darryl Carattini, Paul Holcomb, and Larry Melaas, Programs and Project Management; George Sporer and Ron Williams, Real Estate.

### District Commander's Awards

**John Behrens**, Engineering Division, received the March Commander's Award.

Behrens earned the award for creating and constructing two new lock and dam models for use in the District's interpretive displays and community relations program. Behrens coordinated the plans and specifications with others in ED, attended numerous meetings with District staff to determine the District's needs for the models, and worked numerous hours with the contractor who built the models.

His work resulted in the creation of two exceptional models that will be used by the District for years to come.

**Mary Craig**, Programs and Project Management, received the April Commander's Award.

Craig earned the award for her efforts in facilitating the District's Geographic Information Systems Users Group meetings. Craig routinely arranged for qualified speakers, hands-on training activities, and the necessary facilities for the monthly meetings.

She has actively promoted District staff attendance at these meetings and consistently addressed the details that make them successful, to include coordinating and arranging for the delivery of lunches.

### Recent Retirements ...

**Michael Smith**, engineering technician, Maintenance Section, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired July 2, after dedicating 35 years, eight months, and 24 days to the federal government.

**Benjamin Bagwell**, master, tender, Project Maintenance Unit, Maintenance Section, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, will retire Aug. 1, after dedicating 31 years to the federal government.

### Sympathy ...



**Robert McMullen**, 65, of Hull, Ill., died June 26, at Hannibal Regional Hospital.

McMullen was a head lock and dam operator and valued employee at Lock and Dam 22.

He worked for the Corps as a lockman for more than 34 years.



**Allan McKeever**, 87, of Davenport, Iowa, died June 6, at Genesis Medical Center-West Campus, Davenport.

McKeever worked for the District as an engineer technician from 1946 through 1986.

He served with the 9th Air Force from 1942 through 1946 in Europe.



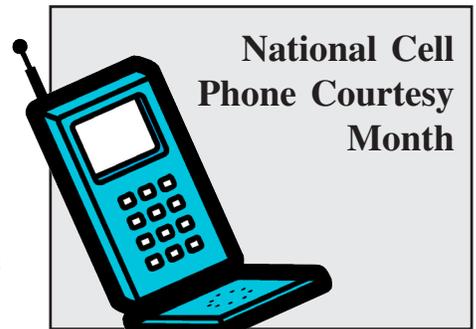
**Bertram "Bill" Hedgepeth**, 76, of Davenport, Iowa, died May 27, at Manor Care Nursing Home in Davenport.

Hedgepeth worked for the District as a photographer prior to WWII.

Hedgepeth served in WWII in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theater. Following his discharge from the Navy, he served an additional nine years in the United States Air Force.

More recently, he owned and operated Bill's First and Last Chance Tap in Davenport retiring in 1997.

### July is ...



[www.etiquetteexpert.com](http://www.etiquetteexpert.com)

# District Credit Union is Available for You

The Rock Island District Federal Credit Union has served employees at the District for 68 since 1936, and continue to provide the best service possible.

The Credit Union staff, Bev Rice and Mary Lavin, provide excellent customer service, while assisting the District employees' financial needs.

Although most employees don't use the Credit Union for their primary banking needs, many of them acquire an account to cover all their financial avenues.

The Credit Union offers competitive rates for home equity and car loans, as well as free checking, no fee American Express travelers checks, savings accounts, certificates of deposit (CDs), individual retirement arrangements (IRAs).

RIDCU also sells stamps, has tax forms and vehicle value books (NADA books), makes change, and can do a notary public.

If you're not already a member think about becoming one today.

You can get additional information about the services and rates available through RIDCU in the District's "RID Credit Union" public folder. You can also contact the Credit Union direct at 309-794-3052 or by e-mail at [ridcu@usace.army.mil](mailto:ridcu@usace.army.mil).



Al Lopez, Information Management, takes advantage of the services provided by the District Credit Union and receives money from Mary Lavin, a staff member at the Credit Union. Photo by Mark Kane.



Six-year-old Brandon Bessler, Davenport, Iowa, shows off his 4.5 inch catch during the District's fishing clinic July 10.

## Record Numbers Attend District Fishing Clinic

Story and photo by Mark Kane

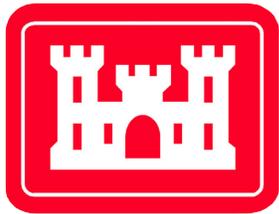
Fish identification, casting demonstrations, water safety, and just plain "fishin' fun" kept a record number of more than 75 participants busy with multiple fishing activities.

The Mississippi River Project hosted the fishing clinic for children ages five through 15 July 10 at the Day Use Recreation Area at Locks and Dam 14, Pleasant Valley, Iowa.

Park Ranger Steve Vacek, Mississippi River Project Office, coordinated and administered the event, which is in its 11th year. The afternoon's main activity consisted of fishing skill applications, with a fishing contest. The kids were divided into three age groups. At the end of the fishing contest, winners in each group were awarded prizes to those who caught the most, largest and smallest fish. Special prizes were also given to five first-time fishing participants.

Participants were also treated to a free lunch, which was provided by area business supporters.

Ten volunteers provided support for the event, along with 29 area businesses that provided prizes and lunch having a value of \$1,645 in donations.



# 2004 Corps Day Picnic

July 31 at 11 a.m.



In year's past, the District coordinated its summer employee picnic to correspond with the District's annual award ceremony, but this year the festivities are taking to the field.

This summer's picnic will take place near Fairport, Iowa, at the District's Shady Creek Recreation Area.

Shady Creek is easily accessible off Highway 22, 1 mile east of Fairport, Iowa. The recreation area is 10 miles east of Muscatine, Iowa, and 20 miles west of Davenport, Iowa.

A main entrée, beverages (both non-alcoholic and alcoholic), and door prizes will be provided. Participants are highly encouraged to bring a side dish of their choice.

Retirees are also invited to join the festivities to meet, greet and catch up with their former co-workers.

For more information about the Shady Creek Recreation Area, as well as campsite reservation information, go to [www.ReserveUSA.com](http://www.ReserveUSA.com).

For further information about the picnic refer to the 2004 Corps Day on "Rocky" (the Intranet), while District retirees can contact Justine Barati at 309-794-5730 or e-mail at [justine.a.barati@usace.army.mil](mailto:justine.a.barati@usace.army.mil).