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New England District

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# YANKEE ENGINEER

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New England District team participates in  
Concord Patriot's Day Parade

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# Yankee Voices

## Sympathy...

...to the family of Engineering retiree, **Mark Lawrence**, who passed away March 31. He retired in March 2019 and was recognized with a Civilian Service Commendation Medal upon retirement.

...to **Col. (ret) Carl Sciple**, retired USACE New England Commander, on the recent passing of his wife, **Patricia Sciple**. Please see Mrs. Sciple's obituary for more information: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/patricia-sciple-obituary?id=51696732>

...to **Matt Tessier**, Engineering, on the passing of his father, Ernest Tessier, April 20. For more information about arrangements and his entire obituary, please follow the link: <https://obituaries.newburyportnews.com/obituary/ernest-tessier-1087487560>

... to the family of Engineering retiree, **Bob Mirick**, who passed away April 20. For more information, please go to his obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/robert-mirick-obituary?id=51713018>



The Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge in its lowered position.

Photo provided by the Cape Cod Canal team

## Maintenance work on Vertical Lift Railroad Bridge closes Canal to marine traffic

The Cape Cod Canal Vertical Lift Railroad bridge span was lowered and the Canal was closed to all marine traffic from the week of April 24 to April 28. The closures were needed for the rehabilitation and replacement of critical bridge components.

The Canal reopened each day as early as possible. Cape Cod Canal safety boats were stationed at both ends of the Canal to warn approaching vessels.

Construction on the vertical lift railroad bridge began on December 18, 1933, and almost two years later the first train rolled across it on December 29, 1935. It has a 544-foot horizontal span and the 2,200 ton center span is supported by 271-foot towers and counter-balanced with 1,100 ton weights on either side. The center span remains in the raised position 135 above mean high water except when it is briefly lowered to allow rail traffic onto or off Cape Cod.



# Commander's Corner: Taking a stand by wearing denim

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

Since 2021, the New England District team has supported survivors of sexual assault by participating in National Denim Day. This day comes every April and coincides with Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. This year's Army theme is, "Intervene We Are a Team: There is US in TrUST. Can They Trust in You?"

You can absolutely trust that the leadership in the District is committed to providing you with a safe place to work. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will be dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

National Denim Day falls on April 26 this year. We started wearing denim as a show of support to sexual assault survivors when I first took command and I'm thrilled with the support you have shown thus far. This will be my last Denim Day as New England District commander and I would like to see participation from as many of you as possible.

For our new employees who don't know what National Denim Day is, let me explain. National Denim Day started in Italy in 1992 when an 18-year-old woman was raped by her 45-year-old driving instructor. She reported the rape, and the man was arrested and convicted. Years later, the man appealed the conviction saying that it was not rape at all,

but consensual sex. The Italian Supreme Court overturned the conviction, and the perpetrator was released. The Court argued that because the victim was wearing very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was not rape but consensual sex. This became known throughout Italy as the "jeans alibi."

The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim.

The National Denim Day campaign is sponsored by the nonprofit organization Peace Over Violence to bring awareness to victim blaming and destructive myths that surround sexual violence.

I want you to join me in making this important social statement and wear denim on April 26. I want us, as a team, to protest against the misconceptions that surround sexual violence.

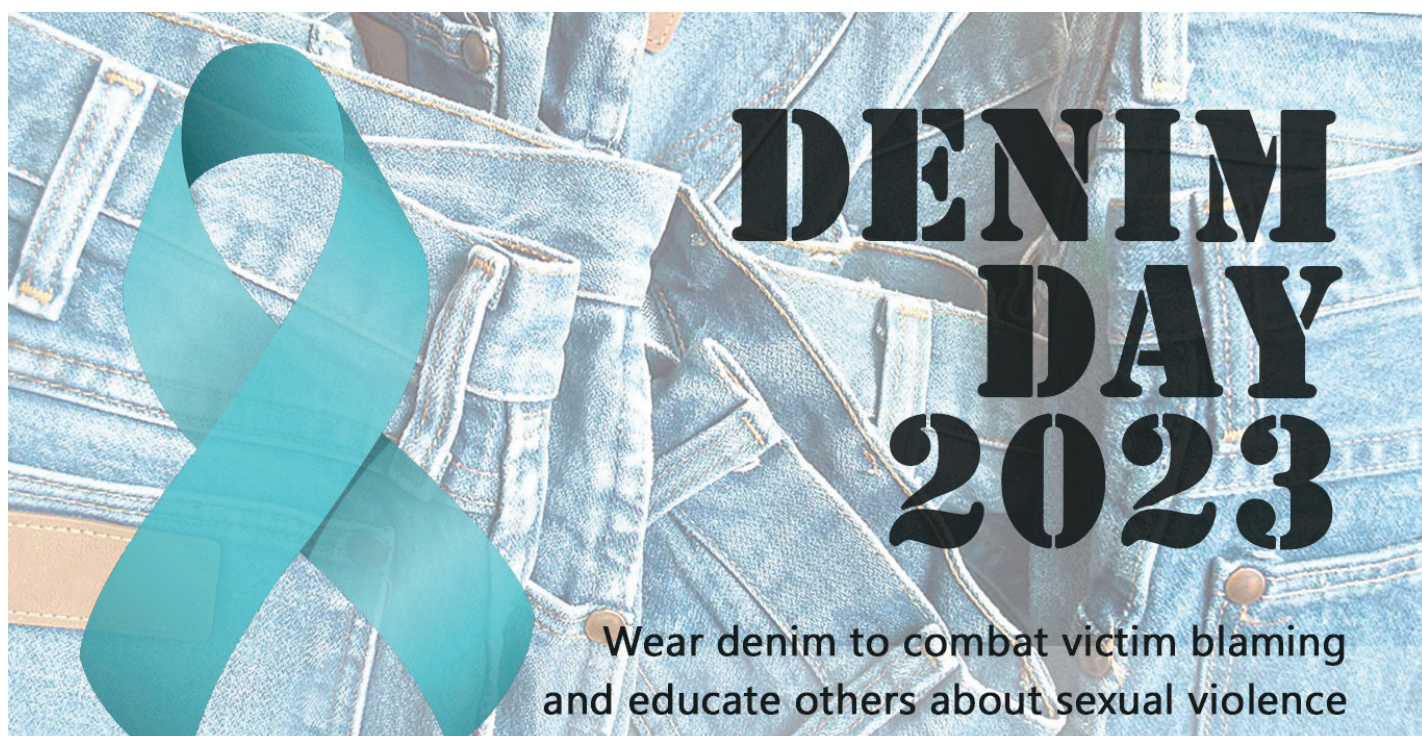
I stand with, and support, survivors of sexual assault and I will be wearing denim during the day on April 26.

We have resources for survivors of sexual assault posted on our intranet. Here are the links:

Safe Helpline - <https://www.safehelpline.org/>

SHARP Home - <https://usace.dps.mil/sites/INTRA-NAD/SitePages/SHARP-Home.aspx>

Resource: <https://nationaltoday.com/denim-day/>



# Denim Day - New England District



Sean Dolan



Crystal Daley, Viola Bramel and Rebecca Gaudreau



Sally Rigione and AnnMarie Harvie



Robert Marchetta



Marie Wojtas and Jeff Dvorak



Jordan Macy



Heather Shields, Kevin DiRocco and Laurie Cibeau



Jennifer Todd



Matt Mrocza

# Denim Day - New England District



Marc Paiva



Gabriella Saloio



Will Brandt and Marie Esten



Stephen Dunbar



Don Hassett



Mike Russo and Sally Rigione



Keith Goulet and Paul Sneringer



Charlotte Skolnick

# Denim Day - New England District



Eva Szigeti, Paula Kullberg and Paul Sneeringer



Sarita Martinez



Thomas Boutlier, Heather Skorik, Elizabeth Glasgow and Distephano Marcellus. Photographer Tina Mercier was also in denim.



Heather Morse, Evan Landon and Matt Regis



Jordan Luks, Valerie Franklin, Alex Cote, Connor Santee and Jessalyn Stockwell



Thuyen Nguyen



Smokey the Bear, Nicole Baldwin and James Jylkka



## New England District team participates in Concord Patriot's Day Parade

Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli, New England District Deputy Commander, represented the New England District in the town of Concord's Patriot's Day parade, April 17 in Concord, Massachusetts. District Ranger Color Guard members Matt Coleman, Nicole Giles and Colin Monkiewicz joined Lt. Col. Carvelli on the parade route through the center of town to the Old North Bridge and back.

Over 600 minutemen, bands, children's organizations, police, military state and local officials participated in the event. Tim Hays, retired New England District Librarian and Historian, reprised his role as a Lincoln Minuteman and also marched in the parade.

The marchers paused at the Old North Bridge for a wreath laying ceremony to remember the Soldiers of the American Revolution and to commemorate the events that took place on April 19, 1775 that began the American Revolutionary War.

Patriot's Day is a state holiday commemorated all through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and multiple states. The Concord Parade is only one of many events to mark the day to include re-enactments of the first days of the War, various Concord events and the Boston Marathon.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was founded only two months after the War began when Gen. George Washington named Col. Richard Gridley Chief of Engineers on June 16, 1775.



# Dredging up the past



Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, speaks with young parade participants before the Concord Patriot's Day Parade in this April 19, 2014 photo. Photo by Brian Murphy.