



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

YANKEE ENGINEER

Volume 56, No. 8, May 2023

BUILDING STRONG®



New England District celebrates Earth Day

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Yankee Voices

Park Ranger James Higgs



Operations photo.

Maintaining our Dams

Park Rangers Cody Symonds and Dan Orlando perform work on the shiv block of flood control gate 1 at Franklin Falls Dam in New Hampshire.

Franklin Falls Dam was completed in October 1943 at a cost of \$7.9 million. Situated on the Pemigewasset River in the town of Franklin, the 1,740-foot-long, 140-foot-high dam impounds a permanent pool of 440 acres with a maximum depth of about seven feet.

The flood storage area of the project totals 2,800 acres and can store up to 50.2 billion gallons of water for flood risk management purposes. The project has prevented damages amounting to more than \$178.3 million to date.

Honoring our fallen on Memorial Day

by Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli, P.E., PMP
Deputy Commander,
New England District

Memorial Day is almost upon us, and although it signals the beginning of summer, it's also the time to pay respect to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so



A Soldier plants flags for Memorial Day.

Photo by Ken Scar, U.S. Army Cadet Command (Army ROTC)

that we can freely enjoy those barbecues and frolics on the beach. Remember, Memorial Day honors the fallen. Veterans Day remembers our living service members.

The first Memorial Day, back then called Decoration Day, was observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the Civil War Soldiers and honor the deceased by decorating their graves. Today, there are parades and other memorial services nationwide to remember all our brave fallen. I encourage you to take part in any events your cities and town have to offer.

In addition, but not in place of, the National Moment of Remembrance held on Memorial Day, honors and remembers all Americans who have died for Freedom. At 3 p.m. on Memorial Day, all Americans are asked to stop what they are doing and pause to remember those who died for our freedom.

I also want to take a minute to talk a little about safety regarding alcohol consumption and safety on or in the water. Having a drink or two in your backyard or in a place where it's allowed is fine, but don't get behind the wheel or get in a boat or go in the water. If you are planning on enjoying some adult beverages, use a designated driver. ALWAYS wear a life jacket when you are on any sort of watercraft. Don't even think about swimming while drinking. Col. Atilano has been preaching this message for three years successfully – everyone has come back safe from Memorial Day. Let's keep the trend going.



2023 Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

by Elliott J. Ashby

Equal Employment Opportunity Manager

The Department of Defense celebrates May 1-31, 2023, as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. During this time, we acknowledge the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have served the Nation and are instrumental to its future success.

We pay tribute to the generations of Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) who have enriched our Nation's history through their countless contributions, vibrant cultures, and rich heritage.

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council designated the 2023 theme as, "Advancing Leaders Through Opportunity." Opportunity is defined as, "a set of circumstances that make it possible to do something." Opportunity can be "built, accessed, achieved, or given."

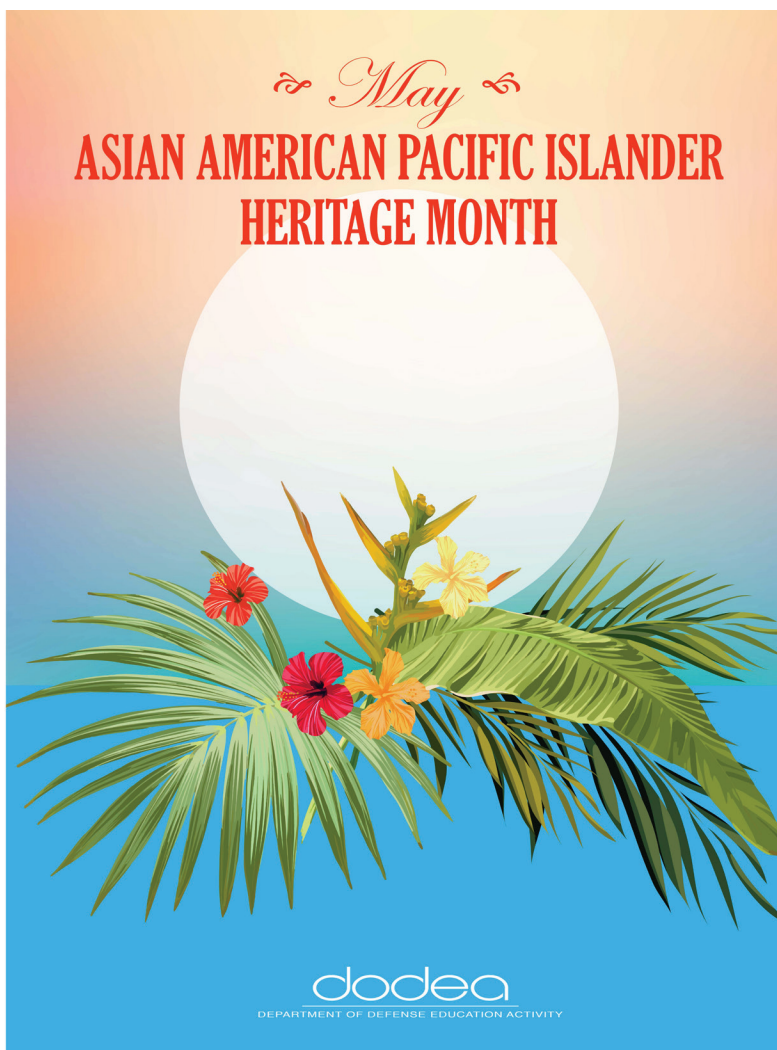
Retired U.S. Navy Lt. Commander Kimberly M. Mitchell's life circumstances exemplify opportunity.

In May 1972, near Quang Tri, South Vietnam, a wounded man found a baby on the side of a road. Lying in the arms of her dead mother, she was still trying to nurse. Unable to go on himself, the man put the baby in a hat and handed her over to South Vietnamese Marine, 2nd Lt. Bao Tran. Tran was preparing to blow up a bridge before the Viet Cong could cross. He asked his commanding officer what to do. The reply was direct, "You take care of her."

Tran took the baby to the Sacred Heart orphanage in

Da Nang.

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. James Mitchell adopted the baby and named her Kimberly. Mitchell served in the U.S. Navy for 17 years as a Surface Warfare Officer on board surface ships and at shore commands. "That call to serve is something greater than yourself. Some of them have some very interesting background stories and challenges that they overcame. I think it's just a great thing about America that our Armed Forces are able to bring in anybody who wants to serve," she said.



Since retirement, she has worked with hundreds of communities and assisted thousands of organizations address the transition and reintegration challenges faced by service members, veterans, and military families.

We celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month to honor and pay tribute to the Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

Their perseverance through adverse circumstances created opportunities and made a brighter future for the next generation of leaders.

Unfortunately, members of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities continue to experience xenophobic behaviors and hate-fueled violence in America. As a District, we

must provide climates which are safe, value diversity and inclusion, and provide opportunities for all to reach their full potential. We are charged with protecting our country and will meet that challenge by appealing to the nation's best talent and providing equitable opportunities for their continued advancement.



Douglas Sorensen crosses the Boston Marathon finish line. He finished the marathon in just over five and a half hours.

Photos provided by David Sorensen

District team members participate in 2023 Boston Marathon

The Boston Marathon is synonymous with springtime in Massachusetts. The 127-year-old race is one of the most famous in the world, and people come from all corners of the Earth to participate. Two New England District employees took part in this year's event, held on April 17.

Douglas Sorensen, Engineering Technician, Construction Support Branch and Maxwell Titelbaum, U.S. Army Civilian Human Resources Agency (CHRA), participated in two different ways.

This was Sorensen's first ever marathon, one that he's been dreaming of running since he was a child.

"I had never run a marathon previously, so when my wife and I moved to Boston in 2021, I set a goal

for myself that I would run the Boston Marathon," he said. "I wanted the challenge and felt this was a perfect chance to run in a marathon I had been seeing on TV since I was a kid in California."

When deciding to run, Sorensen said he wanted to run for a charity.

"The charity that I found is called Home Base, which is a partnership between the Boston Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH)," he said. "This charity raises funds for support and care to treat the "invisible wounds" suffered by our veterans. Being a Veteran myself -- I'm currently serving as a Senior Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserves -- this was a no-brainer for me."

The first-time marathoner said

he started the marathon running with his teammates, but as everyone discovered their own pace, he found himself running on his own. Sorensen completed the race in five hours, 31 minutes and eight seconds. He said that running in the Boston Marathon is an experience he would like to repeat.

"I would absolutely run this again," he said. "The feeling you get running past so many of our towns with people lining both sides of the route cheering you on is indescribable."

Titelbaum did not run in the marathon, but has been a volunteer since 2009.

"I'm an Amateur Radio Communications Volunteer for the marathon, handling logistics, safety, and medical communications and as

an emergency communications backup for the event,” he said. “In the past I’ve been assigned to various locations including the finish line area, various on-course locations such as medical tents and hydration stations and the Course Amateur Radio Operations Center.”

This year, he was assigned to the start line segment as the communications assistant for the Boston Athletic Association representative in the Start Unified Command Center in Hopkinton.

Titelbaum volunteers at many other public service events as an Amateur Radio Operator, but after being licensed in 2008, he was inspired to volunteer at the marathon after a presentation from a member of his Amateur Radio club on his many years of experience at the event.

“I thought it looked like an interesting event and a great way to both test and grow my skills in Amateur Radio,” he said.

Titelbaum said that being a volunteer at the Boston Marathon is work very dear to him.

“I enjoy the opportunity to use my skills to support the event, and that it’s one of my favorite events to volunteer for, and I look forward to it every year,” he said. “I’m especially happy to continue to volunteer after the attack in 2013, and I know my skills and the skills of my fellow volunteers are appreciated by everyone involved.

Sorensen joined the New England District’s Construction Division as an Engineering Technician (Civil) in August 2021.

Prior to joining the District, he worked in the Dredging Section in the Savannah District. He is currently stationed in the Construction Support Branch.

Titelbaum has been assigned by the CHRA to support New England District since 2021, and will celebrate three years in August.



First time Boston Marathoner Douglas Sorensen shows off his medal after completing the race.



Maxwell Titelbaum serves as an Amateur Radio Communications Volunteer during the Boston Marathon.

Photo provided by Maxwell Titelbaum

New England District teams celebrate Earth Day

Four New England District project teams celebrated Earth Day in April. Two held sponsored cleanups and two joined a local celebration. The 2023 theme is “Investing in Our Planet.”

Two events took place at the Cape Cod Canal. The first cleanup happened on April 21. A cleanup team from the Canal Generating Plant, a petroleum and natural gas electrical power station in Sandwich, Massachusetts, was not able to get to the Canal Cleanup, but had 20 volunteers work the day before to remove 120 pounds of trash from the Sandwich Recreation Area.

The following day, the Cape Cod Canal team partnered with AmeriCorps Cape Cod for the 22nd annual Canal Cleanup Event. About 200 volunteers arrived ready to work. At the end of the day, the volunteers and Cape Cod Canal team members cleaned up over 600 pounds of trash from the banks of the Canal.

Barnstable County’s AmeriCorps Cape Cod program has engaged service-minded adults to fulfill a variety of environmental and disaster preparedness needs across Cape Cod since 1999. Park Ranger and Volunteer Coordinator Elisa Carey, Park Rangers Samantha Gray, Andrew Fino, Corina Danielson and Seasonal Park Ranger Dave Lewis all participated in the cleanup.

“Thank you to all who came out and supported the 22nd Cape Cod Canal cleanup,” said Carey. “Protecting and preserving the environment is an enduring mission for USACE year-round. Environmental stewardship is an investment in all our futures and we loved seeing all of you out there with us. Thank you again for joining us this Earth Day 2023 and ‘Investing in Our Planet.’”

West Hill Dam hosted cleanups on April 21 and April 27. The Uxbridge Home Schoolers Team Seta, the



AmeriCorps Cape Cod volunteers pick up trash along the banks of the Cape Cod Canal.

Photos courtesy of Linnea Shirley

Advanced West Hill Dam Junior Rangers and parents joined Park Ranger Viola Bramel cleaning and preparing the project’s Eastern Bluebird houses for the 2023 nesting season.

“The home schoolers completed the entire west side of the West Hill Dam grassland and wildlife management area while the Advanced Junior Rangers completed the entire eastern side of the West Hill Dam wildlife management area,” she said.

Bramel said that the groups covered about 18 acres and walked about two miles to complete the birdhouse cleanups.

Team members from Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam did not hold a program due to weather,

according to Project Manager Nicole Giles. However, two park rangers participated in Charlton, Massachusetts’ celebration on April 29.

“Angela Erskine and James Higgins represented USACE at the event,” said Giles.

Giles said that the two park rangers made 67 interactions with the public as they promoted park information, water safety and environmental education.

The New England District has a long history of hosting cleanups and project improvements in honor of Earth Day. Environmental stewardship is ingrained in USACE’s culture. It is grounded in USACE’s Environmental Operating Principles, which are incorporated across all of its mission areas.



West Hill Dam volunteers cleaned out Eastern Bluebird houses in time for nesting season.

Photos provided by West Hill Dam.



Roger Hagen's Flowering Dogwood tree.

Photos by Michele Breen



Eric Hagen assists Rangers plant his father's tree.

Cape Cod Canal team remembers Roger Hagen on his birthday with tree planting



Former Park Manager Bill Norman and his wife, Vera with current Canal Manager John MacPherson.

Members of the Cape Cod Canal team, retirees, friends and family members all gathered at the Cape Cod Canal to remember retired Park Ranger Roger Hagen on what would have been his 75th birthday, April 24.

The beloved staple of the Canal team, who retired in 2014 with 40 years of service, passed away in December 2022.

To commemorate his birthday, the Canal team hosted a tree planting ceremony in Hagen's honor.

Canal Manager John MacPherson, Engineering Technician Richard Patterson and Park Rangers John Pribilla, Jonathan Dumais, Elisa Carey, Samantha Gray, Justin Nelson, Andrew Fino and Michele Breen hosted the event that involved planting a flowering Dogwood tree. Hagen's wife, Debbie, and son, Eric, attended the planting. Hagen's son helped the Park Rangers plant his father's tree.

Retired Canal Park Manager Bill Norman and his wife, Vera, joined the Canal team at the ceremony.

Dredging up the past



Park Ranger Ralph Gendron assists local Cub Scouts during Barre Falls' Earth Day celebration in this April 2002 photo.