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BUILDING STRONG®



Cape Cod Canal celebrates 108th anniversary
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Yankee Voices

Bobber the Water Safety Dog and a guest at the Cape Cod Canal's 108th birthday celebration



Congratulations...

...to **Bryan** (Structural Engineering Section) and **Kristen** (Geotechnical Engineering Section) **Paul**, Engineering Division, on the birth of their daughter, July 13. She joins her brother in the family circle.

...to Natural Resource Specialist **Matthew Underwood**, Upper Connecticut River Basin, on receiving a Commander's Coin from USACE Chaplain Colonel Geoffrey Bailey, during his visit to New England District's lake projects, July 11. Underwood serves as the North Atlantic Division's Program Manager for the Critical Incident Stress Management program. He received the coin for his work in the program.

Sympathy...

...to the family of Planning retiree **Colleen Martin** who passed away on July 28. She worked for the New England District for 25 years.



USACE golf team defeats arch rival FEMA in annual golf tournament

Congratulations to the USACE Golf Team who defeated their FEMA golf rivals during their annual "Ryder Cup" tournament, Aug. 3. Our champion golfers, pictured here, have been undefeated since 2017 and the series now stands at 7-2 in favor of USACE.

Kudos...

...to the New England District ULA team. On June 1, ULA picked up five pallets of excess equipment, to include hand and power tools, laptops, monitors, and other property book items worth more than \$100,000. The pick up was part of an ongoing effort to reduce our logistical footprint, make property accountability more efficient for our personnel, and ensure that we have up-to-date and fully functional equipment with which to accomplish our mission. Our ULA team worked tirelessly to ensure all paperwork was in order and the burden on our hand receipt holders was kept to a minimum.



Commander's Corner: Happy Independence Day New England!

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

On July 4, our great nation turns 246 years old. For those of you doing the math in your head, YES, the Army and the Corps of Engineers are a year older than the country we serve.

It is no secret that the 4th of July is my favorite holiday. Since I live in New Hampshire, I get to use awesome fireworks (mortars, rockets, cherry bombs, etc.). And I certainly have done a risk assessment and taken measures to mitigate that risk to ensure my family has a safe and fun celebration. Additionally, steak and lobster are on the menu at the Atilano household on the 4th of July.

For me, the 4th of July is about celebrating all that is great about America and being an American. I have been accused of being a “naïve true-believer” in America and our ideals. Guilty as charged. Our country is what we make of it.

You would be surprised how many Americans have never



read the declaration of independence. It speaks to our desire for freedom and justice, not as individuals but as a nation. Most Americans are familiar with the second sentence of the declaration of independence. But, for me, the last line of the declaration resonates with me most:

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

That statement was not an exaggeration. By signing the declaration of independence, the founding fathers literally signed their own death warrants.

By banding together as a nation (and a lot of help from France) we were able to defeat the Crown and win our independence. When we come together, we can accomplish anything; and that is worth celebrating.

I feel that this year is especially meaningful as we continue to emerge from the grip of the pandemic that has shackled our nation, and the planet, for over two years. Things are getting better.

This may be the first time in the past two years that you celebrate a holiday with family and friends. Enjoy it, but remember to do so responsibly. Be careful on the water – wear your life jacket, no drinking and driving, and be careful with the fireworks. I hope you have a fantastic 4th of July!



Elm Brook Park photo

Need a life jacket? Elm Brook Park can help

The new life jacket loaner station at Elm Brook Park is up and running. Life jacket sizes range from Infant (less than 30 pounds) up to Adult (over 90 pounds).

Potential borrowers who don't see the size they need or if they need assistance in choosing the correct size should find a Park Ranger for help. These life jackets are available to borrow while you go swimming and then all you need to do is return it to the station.



Sheila Warren (third from left), Michelle Wu (fourth from right) stand with local officials and organizers to unveil the new McConnell Park in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Photo provided by Sheila Warren

New England District Silver Jackets, city of Boston unveil high water mark sign

Sheila Warren, Silver Jacket Coordinator for New England District, joined Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and local officials and organizations in unveiling a high-water mark sign at McConnell Park in Dorchester, Massachusetts' Savin Hill neighborhood.

McConnell Park sustained considerable flood damage after two Nor'easters in 2018. The U.S. Geological Survey identified and surveyed several high-water mark elevations in Boston. USACE supported the city in unveiling its first high water mark signs combining the high-water levels with information and interactive signs.

The park received \$7.1 million in improvements and renovations that included a play lot, fields, passive spaces, parking, utility improvements and improved access.

The high-water mark signs are part of the Silver Jacket's

High-Water Mark Project that will establish legacy high-water marks on publicly visible and publicly owned infrastructure in the Boston area.

Warren expressed her appreciation to the Silver Jacket Team.

"I would like to thank all our Massachusetts Silver Jackets team partners including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration's National Weather Service and Office of Coastal Management, United States Geological Survey, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the city of Boston for their efforts to get us to where we are," she said. "We feel fortunate to have this great partnership to develop the high-water marks program to raise awareness of flooding along the coastline."



Photos Courtesy of MIT Lincoln Laboratory. Photographer, Glen Cooper

Col. Atilano (second from right) joins other dignitaries in breaking ground on the new project.

District breaks ground on new laboratory for MIT/Lincoln Labs

Col. John Atilano II, New England District Commander, headed next door from Concord Park to Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts, to break ground on the Compound Semi-Conductor Laboratory and Microsystems Integration Facility for MIT/Lincoln Labs, July 1.

“Right now, we are looking at a parking lot across the street,” said Col. Atilano. “But in three years’ time, it will be a modern, state-of-the-art facility for advanced microsystems prototyping.”

The \$276 million facility will contain a new laboratory and an expansive clean room complex with some office spaces.

The total clean room area is approximately 35,000 square feet and includes clean room bays and chases, associated HVAC and electrical requirements as well as secure



Col. Atilano speaks during the ceremony.

communications area.

“It will have a structural and foundation system that minimizes vibrations and noise in the lab space,” said Col. Atilano. “And the facility will also offer sophisticated process and specialty gas systems, and so much more.”

Col. Atilano thanked the District’s partners on the project – the U.S. Army Force Engineer Center, Hanscom Air Force Base, MIT/Lincoln Labs and the

Congressional representatives. He also thanked New England District’s project manager, Dan Stenstream and his team, designer CH2M-Burns and McDonnell as well as contractor Gilbane/Exyte for all their work thus far.

After the speaking portion of the ceremony, Col. Atilano joined project partners in a shovel ceremony. Joining in on the ceremony were members from the offices of Rep. Seth Moulton, Sen. Edward Markey, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Col. Julie Curlin, 66 Air Base Group; Brig. Gen. Mark Slominski; the Honorable Katherine Clark, Eric Evans, Director, MIT/Lincoln Labs and Bob Germain of Jacobs.

Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli, Deputy District Commander, served as the MC for the event. Col. John Lloyd, NAD Commander, also attended the event but did not participate in the event.



Col. John Atilano II presents Bob Casoli with the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal as Kevin McNally looks on.

Photo by Brian Murphy

Robert Casoli retires with 38 years of service

Senior Construction Representative Robert T. “Bob” Casoli has worked on many of New England District’s projects over the years, to include the recently completed Boston Harbor Dredging Project. He decided to hang up his hard hat and join the retirement community, July 2.

Friends and co-workers couldn’t let him leave without recognizing his 38 years of faithful service, so they gathered in the Concord Park courtyard in Concord, Massachusetts, June 29, for an awards presentation and to reflect on his distinguished career and to wish him well in his next chapter of life.

During the celebration, Col. John A. Atilano II, New England District Commander, presented Casoli with the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal. The honor was bestowed upon Casoli for distinguished service to the New England District as a Construction Control Representative from October 1995 through June 2022.

Casoli began working in Construction Division supporting EPA Superfund work before transitioning to dredging and marine construction

where he became a subject matter expert. During his career, he worked on 6 of the 11 deep draft ports located within New England as well as numerous shallow draft harbors where he mentored small business contractors to get the work completed. Casoli was well respected among his peers and established a reputation for professionalism and technical competence with our contractors and customers.

The soon to be retired Casoli also received a Certificate of Appreciation from Don Hassett, Union Local 1164. The certificate recognized his outstanding commitment at the Construction Division, and the New England District.

The document also commended him for his work at U.S. Army Research Laboratory at Watertown, Massachusetts, during his first job for the Government while the first Gulf War was under way. Finally, the certificate recognized in the local union work where his selfless service put the welfare of the nation, the U.S. Army and others before his own.

Casoli joined the New England District team in 1995 as a Construction Inspector for the Holbrook Superfund site, hired by Frank Fedele and Larry Davis to work under Jim Doucakis.

In 2000, Casoli was assigned to the Eastern Area Office working for Area Engineer Jon Winmill. Casoli managed navigation work in the position. During his career he worked on six of the 11 deep draft parts of New England. He also worked on numerous shallow draft harbors and mentored small business contractors to get work completed. His experience in dredging and marine construction made him a subject matter expert in the District.

In 2011, Casoli transferred to the Boston Resident Office and was promoted to Senior Construction Representative, the position from which he retired.

He reunited with his former supervisor Jim Doucakis, with Cesar Lopez, Susanne Grant and Stephen Umbrell rounding out the team.

Retirees who came to Concord Park to welcome Casoli into their ranks included Jerry Nunziato and Bud Taylor.



Birthday cards from well wishers decorated the Cape Cod Canal Visitor's Center.

Photos by Samantha Gray



A young participant tries his luck at the Dunk a Ranger activity.



Seasonal Ranger Andrew Flory waits for guests to come to the activity table.

Cape Cod Canal celebrates 108th anniversary

The team at the Cape Cod Canal held a 108th “birthday” party at the Visitor’s Center in Sandwich, Massachusetts. Almost 200 people attended the free event. Visitors who came were invited to make birthday cards that were later displayed in the Visitor’s Center.

What’s a birthday party without games? The canal team modified

a classic game and offered “Pin the Bobber on the Bridge on the Canal” to those who wanted to play.

Bobber the Safety Dog served as the special guest and greeted delighted event attendees. Bobber even participated in the very popular “Dunk the Park Ranger,” by dunking Park Ranger Elisa Carey. Guided tours of

the Visitor’s Center, the Canal story film continuously playing, and the exhibits open throughout the day rounded out the celebration.

Cape Cod Canal team members who served as birthday hosts were Samantha Gray, Elisa Carey, Andrew Flory, Paige Pribilla, Grace Dixon, John Pribilla and Justin Nelson.

Dredging up the past



Larry Oliver, Planning, makes a presentation during the Galilee Salt Marsh Restoration event in this circa 2003 photo. Col. Brink Miller, New England District Commander, is in the background.

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