



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

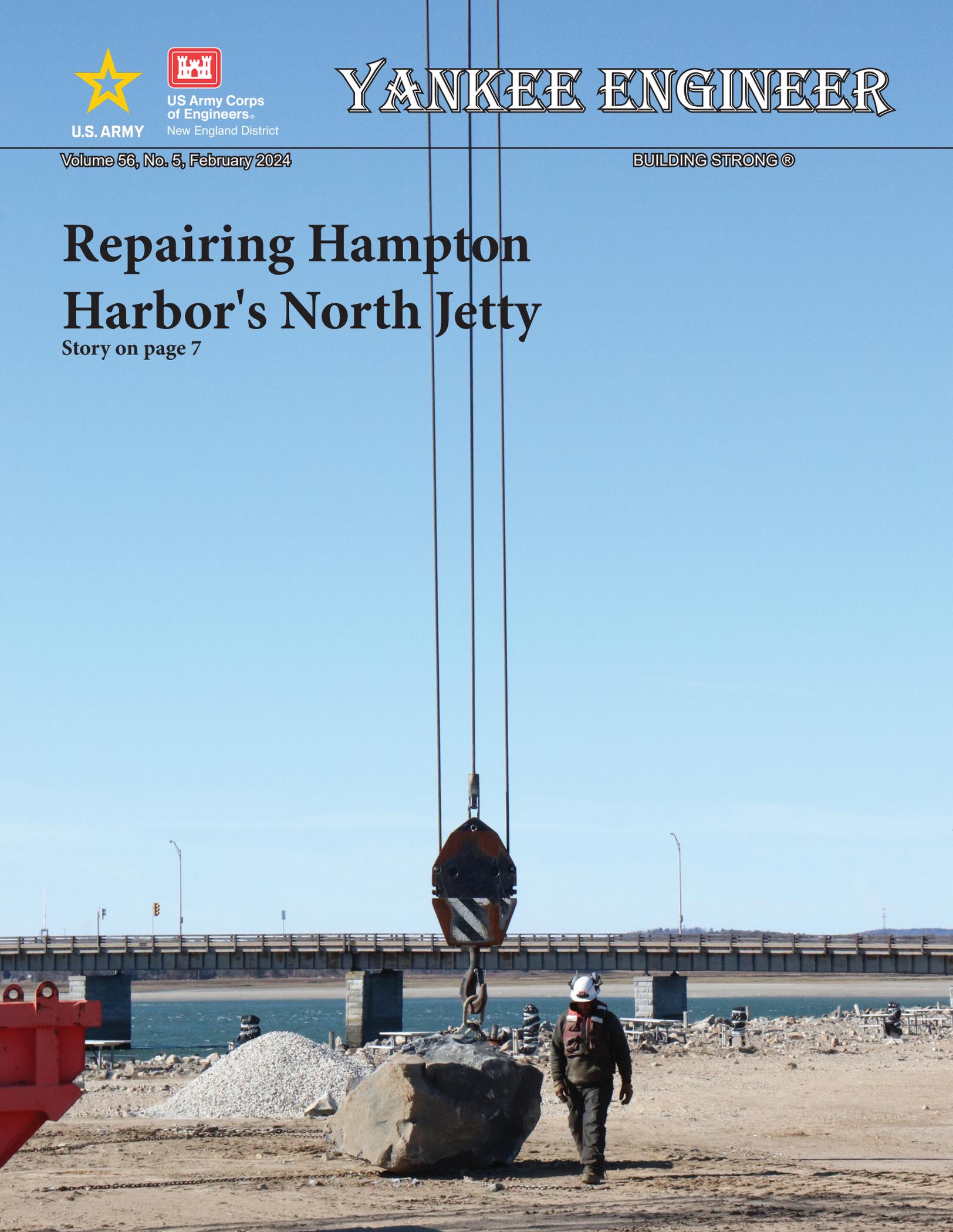
# YANKEE ENGINEER

Volume 56, No. 5, February 2024

BUILDING STRONG®

## Repairing Hampton Harbor's North Jetty

Story on page 7



# Yankee Voices

## Sympathy...

... to **Randy LeCuyer**, Construction, on the passing of his father, Ernest LeCuyer, who passed away Jan. 19. Mr. LeCuyer's obituary can be found here: <https://www.andersonfuneral.com/obituaries/Ernest-LeCuyer/#!/Obituary>

... to the family of retiree **Ann (Wright) Descoteaux**, who passed away Feb. 18. Descoteaux served in our Audio-Visual Section, before leaving us to become the Director of Docents at the Fitchburg Art Museum.

She was also married to Dave Descoteaux, of General Engineering in Design Branch in Engineering Division. Ann's obituary can be found here: <https://www.lcafh.com/obituary/Ann-Descoteaux>



Lt. Col. David MacPhail, Ethan Peck, and Joseph Simonetta



David Bylund

## Welcome...

... to **David Bylund** (pictured right) who has been selected as the new Park Ranger at Birch Hill Dam and Tully Lake Dam.

... to **James Newman** who is the new Chief of the Civil Works/IIS Project Management Branch.

... to **TJ Atwell** who has been selected as the new Community Relations Manager in Public Affairs.

..... to Engineering Division's two latest employees **Ethan Peck**, Cost Engineer (left in first photo), and **Joseph Simonetta Sr.** Tech Lead, (pictured in first photo right). Photo by Crystal Daley.



# Commander's Corner: Celebrating Black History Month

by Col. Justin R. Pabis, PE  
New England District Commander

We celebrate Black History Month as a nation every year in February. This year's theme is "African Americans in the Arts."

You cannot name any form of art in the United States and not have it significantly influenced by African Americans, many of whom are native New Englanders.

Boston-born Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin founded and edited the country's first newspaper published by an African American woman in 1886 called "the Women's Era." Later in her life, Ruffin organized the National Federation of Afro-American Women in 1985 and organized the first National Conference of African American Women in America held in Boston. Representatives from 14 states attended the conference.

In 1859, Harriet Wilson became the first African American woman to publish a novel in the United States. When she was a resident of Milford, New Hampshire. She published her book, "Our Nig; or Sketches from the Life of a Free Black."

According to the Harriet Wilson Project, her book "became a powerful and controversial narrative that continues to touch and unsettle readers around the world."

Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, of Framingham, Massachusetts,



was the first Black woman to receive a U.S. government art commission. Fuller, who was both a painter and a sculptor known for her ground breaking depictions of the African and African American experience received the commission in 1907. The Danforth Museum now has a permanent space devoted to Fuller.

Other, more contemporary artists who were born in Boston were singer Donna Summer, also known as the "Queen of Disco," and actresses Jasmine Guy and Shar Jackson who have all made contributions to the artist communities throughout America.

As a District, we celebrate our artists, our Soldiers and Civilians who are of African American descent here in New England. The professional talent that our African American team members exhibit every day is cause for celebration.

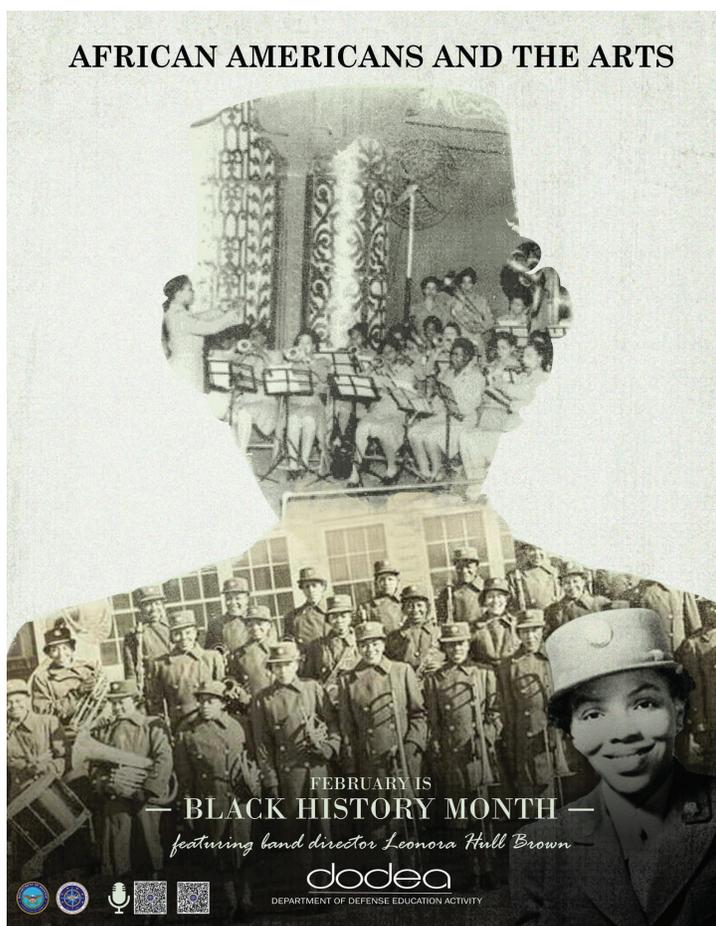
Our Black History Program Manager this year is Grace Moses. Grace, thank you for stepping up and volunteering for this month-long celebration. I look forward to seeing what you bring to us this month.

Please consider attending a local event that celebrates this very special month. I appreciate all our team members for everything you do everyday for the people of New England and the nation.

References:

<https://www.thefamouspeople.com/black-us-massachusetts.php>

<https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/local/2021/02/17/10-black-new-englanders-you-probably-dont-know-but-should-during-black-history-month/6762346002/>





Friends and coworkers come out to celebrate Barbara Blumeris' (2nd left) Lifetime Planning Achievement award

Photos by Linnea Shirley, Public Affairs Office

## Barbara Blumeris receives Lifetime Planning Achievement award

Barbara Blumeris, Planning Division, received one of USACE's highest honors during a brief ceremony held at the New England District Headquarters in the Concord Park cafeteria, Concord, Massachusetts, Feb. 2.

Col. Justin R. Pabis, PE, New England District Commander, presented Blumeris with the 2022 Lifetime Planning Achievement award.

There is stringent criterion for the prestigious award,

which is designed to honor an individual who has distinguished themselves by making significant and lasting contributions to the USACE Planning Community during their career. These contributions could include demonstrations of leadership, mentoring, facilitating groups, collaboration, teaching or providing support to help other planners overcome obstacles and accomplish goals.

Branch Chief Byron Rupp and Section Chief Christopher



Wendy Gendron, Chief of Planning (right) presents Barbara Blumeris with flowers to celebrate her award.



Michael Narcissi and Marc Paiva congratulate Barbara Blumeris on her award.



Patrick Blumeris (right) supports his wife, Barbara Blumeris, during the Lifetime Planning Achievement award presentation.



Col. Justin R. Pabis, New England Division Commander, presents Barbara Blumeris with her Lifetime Planning Achievement award during a special presentation at Concord Park.

Hatfield collaborated on the nomination and made the award a reality. According to their nomination, Blumeris received the honor due to her outstanding work as a lead planner and project manager on more than 100 planning efforts within the Continuing Authorities Program and General Investigations program.

Throughout her career she has long been the “got-to planner” to lead the most complex and controversial planning studies within the New England District. She has led many high-profile efforts including a major watershed study for the

greater Massachusetts Bay region as well as a Dam Safety Modification study for the Waterbury Dam in Vermont.

In addition, she has long served as the Secretary to the International Joint Commission for the St. Croix watershed and successfully worked with many District Commanders during their tenures as Commission chairperson.

Blumeris’ husband Patrick, who works in Engineering Division, and members of the Plan Formulation and Environmental Branches all came out to support Blumeris at the event.

## USACE launches new Regulatory Request System

by **Bryan M. Purtell**  
**Public Affairs Office**

USACE announces the launch of its new Regulatory Request System (RRS). RRS is designed to make the review of permit requests a transparent and efficient process for the public. RRS, currently in a beta version, provides general information on the Regulatory Program and allows the public to submit pre-application meeting requests and jurisdictional determination requests.

Additional capability is scheduled in Spring 2024. This added capability will allow users the ability to electronically submit individual and general permit applications and other

necessary information, saving time and reducing the need for paper-based submissions.

RRS will streamline the permit application process and underscores USACE commitment to modernizing our application process, meeting user expectations, and providing a transparent, straightforward process for the timely review of permit requests.

Stay tuned for further updates on the full release of the RRS. Please click on the following link to access RRS: [rrs.usace.army.mil](https://rrs.usace.army.mil)

For additional information on or to provide feedback on RRS, please contact the [rrs@usace.army.mil](mailto:rrs@usace.army.mil).



Photos courtesy of Andrew Dickinson city of Saco, Maine.

War 6 City Councilor Tricia Huot, Saco Public Works Director Patrick Fox and New England District Commander Justin R. Pabis, PE sign a project agreement at Saco City Hall in Maine.

## District Commander signs agreement with Saco Officials for Shoreline Erosion Mitigation project

By Linnea F. Shirley  
Public Affairs Office

New England District Commander Col. Justin R. Pabis, PE sat with Ward 6 City Councilor Tricia Huot and Saco Public Works Director Patrick Fox to sign a Project Partnership Agreement on Jan. 30., in Saco, Maine. This Project Partnership Agreement is a binding agreement between USACE and the city of Saco to move forward with the design and construction of a \$45 million Section 111 Shoreline Erosion Mitigation project.

The proposed project includes the construction of a 750-foot-long stone spur jetty and an estimated 300,000 cubic yards of sand beach fill, with future sand renourishment on a 10-year cycle.

The spur jetty intends to reduce



Col. Justin R. Pabis, PE, and City Councilor Tricia Huot show off the signed agreement to mitigate sand loss on Camp Ellis Beach in Saco, Maine.

the overall wave energy arriving at Camp Ellis Beach and seaward material removal from the beach.

This project is intended lessen the main jetty's impact on accelerating

and intensifying erosion and storm damage in Camp Ellis. The next steps are to develop a detailed schedule for design and construction of this multi-year project.



Repair work at the Hampton Harbor North Jetty is ongoing.

Photos by TJ Atwell

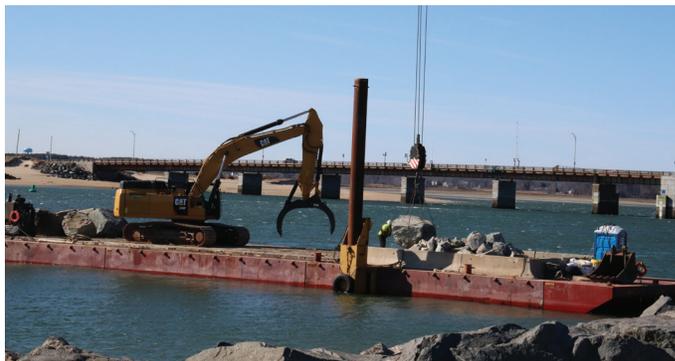
## Repairing Hampton Harbor's North Jetty

Repair work on the Hampton Harbor North Jetty in Hampton, New Hampshire is ongoing. The contractor Lucianos Excavation, a small disadvantage business (8A) of Taunton, Massachusetts, mobilized to the site in October 2023, and has been working to make repairs to the storm-ravaged jetty ever since.

The North Jetty lies at the entrance to Hampton Harbor and is at the southern section of Hampton Beach State Park and extends approximately 1,000 feet into the Atlantic Ocean on the norther side of Hampton Harbor inlet. The North Jetty was last repaired in 2016. Following the 2016 repairs, damages from an undocumented small vessel strike and subsequent winter storms had resulted in an overall loss of protection.

Work on the \$7.22 million project includes performing repairs along 465 linear feet of the jetty and includes the removal, rehandling, and resetting of existing armor stone, installing new 6-10 Ton armor stone (11,000 Tons), new 3-4 Ton armor stone (400 Tons) and new underlayer stone (3,300 Tons). Construction of a new jetty toe on the ocean side with armor stone will be part of the repair work as well.

Construction methods to repair the North Jetty are both land and water-based. A majority of the work is being



Contractor Lucianos Excavation moving armor stone for placement on the North Jetty.

completed by marine-based equipment, specifically there are two jack-up barges located on either side of the jetty (channel side and ocean side) to allow for production of work with long reach excavators on each jack-up barge. New armor stone and underlayer stone is delivered from various quarries by truck and stockpiled within the Hampton Beach State Park. The stone is then loaded onto a stockpile barge by a crane. The stockpile barge is then transported to the channel side jack-up barge and off-loaded for use in the repairs.

Work on the jetty is scheduled to be completed by May 17, 2024.

# Dredging up the past



August 23, 1997 - 11 retire during a special retirement ceremony at the Murphy Federal Center theater in Waltham, Massachusetts. Retirees are: Al Laraway, Donna Caliri, Bill Coleman, Andy Lamborghini, Marge Cotter, John Hart, Bob Mirick, Ed Kaminski, Joe Ignazio, Jim Wong and Bill Mulcahy.