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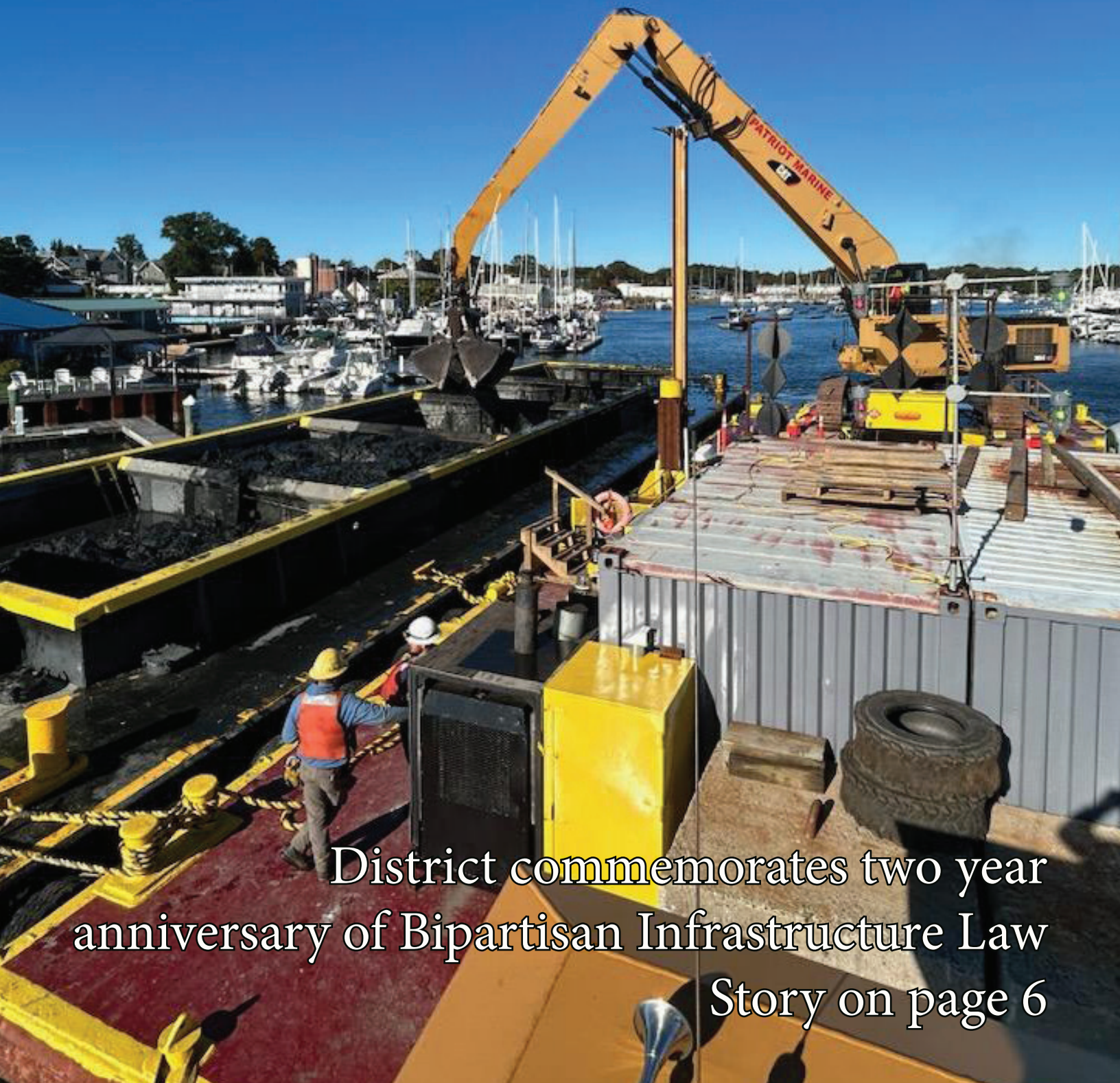


US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New England District

# YANKEE ENGINEER

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BUILDING STRONG®



District commemorates two year  
anniversary of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law  
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# Yankee Voices



Photo by Bryan Paul

## Inspecting New England District's bridges

By Linnea Shirley

New England District's Lyford Beverage, EIT, Structural Section, climbs along the bottom chord as part of a hands-on inspection during a routine bridge inspection on Colebrook River Lake's Old Route 8 Bridge. The bridge is a through truss steel bridge built in 1927 and spans over 136 feet.

## Sympathy...

...to the family of Real Estate retiree **Sylvia Woodbury** who passed away Oct. 18. Her federal career spanned more than three decades, and she retired as a Realty Specialist for the New England District at the age of 80. You can read Mrs. Woodbury's obituary here: <https://www.brownandhickey.com/obituary/Sylvia-Woodbury>.

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# Commander's Corner:

## Observing Native American Heritage Month

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

November is Native American Heritage Month. This year's theme is "Celebrating Tribal Sovereignty and Identity."

November provides the U.S. Army and USACE an opportunity to recognize and express appreciation for the contributions of Native American Soldiers, veterans, civilians and family members, and to reflect on their achievements and contributions to the U.S. Army and the nation.

This year, I'd like to briefly highlight Col. Van T. Barfoot. This Native American hero is the recipient of the Medal of Honor, three Purple Hearts, and a battlefield commission to Lieutenant Colonel during World War II. He received the



honors for capturing 17 German Soldiers and killing eight more on May 23, 1944. According to the Army Aviation Association of America, he completed flight training as a Major at the age of 40 in 1960 and was assigned to the legendary Howze Board which established Air Mobility and modern Army Aviation. During Vietnam, he again answered the nation's call as the Deputy Aviation Officer, from 1967 to 1968, and flew 177 combat hours earning an Air Medal with two clusters and Legion of Merit.

Col. Barfoot is just one of 29 Native American Soldiers who have been presented with the Medal of Honor, our country's highest military decoration, and one of many Native American heroes who fought bravely for their country. Today there are more than 150,000 veterans of American Indian and Alaskan Native descent and about 8,000 who currently serve in the Total Force.

During his month, I encourage you to learn a little about Native American culture and the significant contributions they have made to our nation.

## Veteran's Day message

Veterans Day has been a long-standing tradition in the United States since 1918 and is held on the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I. On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, the battlefield of Europe fell silent after more than four years of fighting. Can you imagine what it must have been like on the battlefield at that moment? As a Soldier, I get chills thinking about what that experience must have been like.

November 11 was originally proclaimed "Armistice Day" by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. In 1954, Congress renamed the day Veterans Day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

Did you know that half of the Department of the Army's Civilian force is made up of Army Veterans? Today, we honor our own New England District Veterans -- brave men and women who served in all branches of service. Heroes who have stepped forward to volunteer to defend the security of our country. Veterans are diverse professionals who have unique skills and experiences. Our Veterans are invaluable contributors to our organization and their communities. Know that your sacrifices both past and present to keep our country



Graphic by Rebecca Ives, Victory Corps

safe are seen and appreciated.

The District put together a page honoring our NAE Veterans who chose to submit their names and photos that was shared internally. If there is a U.S. Veteran in your office, make sure to thank them for their service. I encourage everyone to do something to honor that special veteran in your life. Make them feel appreciated.

Also the 10th is the Marine Corps Birthday. Please go wish a Marine a Happy Birthday and ask them how to participate in their traditions in order to enjoy some cake or two beers.





Don Hassett cuts his retirement cake.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Don Hassett shows off one of his retirement gifts.



John Kedzerski presents flowers to Lynn Hassett



Don Hassett receives a piece of steel from the railroad bridge from John Kedzerski.



Don Hassett receives an Iraqi flag from Bob Hanacek.

## Don Hassett retires after 32 years of service

Don Hassett, Engineering Technician, Engineering Division, retired from federal service, Sept. 30 after 32 years of service.

Family, friends and coworkers gathered in the Concord Park Cafeteria on Sept. 28 to celebrate Hassett's distinguished career.

Hawaiian and fishing shirts were encouraged attire. About 35 people attended the lunch.

Bryan Paul served as host for the presentation portion of the summer cookout-themed lunch. He introduced Hassett's family and friends as well as the presenters.

John Kedzerski and Bob Lie gave a PowerPoint presentation during the event. During the presentation portion, Hassett received gift cards to West

Marine and Bass Pro Shop, a long sleeved t-shirt that said "Trust me, I am the Captain," a piece of steel from the Cape Cod Canal vertical lift railroad bridge, and a New England District rain jacket. Retiree Bob Hanacek presented Hassett with an Iraqi Flag. Kedzerski presented Hassett's wife with a bouquet of flowers.

Prior to joining the New England District, Hassett worked for the U.S. Army at the Watertown Arsenal. During his career with the New England District, Hassett served one deployment in Iraq and one in Europe. He also worked on several high-profile projects during his career. He provided computer aid design (CAD) support for most of every major project performed at the Cape Cod Canal. This included a major

steel repair project at the Bourne and Sagamore bridges and production of over 40 structural sheets.

New England District's latest retiree plans on improving his angler skills during his retirement.

Hassett's wife, Lynn, daughter Kelly, son-in-law Ryan, brother George and his brother's girlfriend Ruth all accompanied him to the lunch.

Retirees who attended the lunch and welcomed Hassett into the retirement community were Bob Casoli, John Garabedian, Bob Hanacek, Ryan Hupfer and Terry Wong. Prior to the retirement lunch, Hassett received the Civilian Service Commendation Medal from New England District Commander Col. Justin R. Pabis, PE, and Chief of Staff Jon Belmont, Sept. 26.

# New England District holds first Cube or Treat event



Will Brandt submission.

As the spooky season in New England came to its climax with the coming of Halloween, New England District employees broke out the cauldrons, body parts, spiders and headstones to compete in the first annual Cube or Treat Cubicle Decorating Contest, Oct. 31.

"The concept is to promote festive decorating and a spirit of fun and community in our awesome District," said Lt. Col. David MacPhail, Deputy Commander.

Lt. Col. MacPhail made the contest District-wide to include all of the field and resident offices. Those who wanted

to participate but weren't located at the Concord Park headquarters could do so by emailing their submissions on Oct. 31 for judging. The submissions did not disappoint. Among the most impressive was the Thomaston Dam Team who came in second for the best decorated section or field site by producing a horror short complete with a jump scare.

On the day of the competition, Lt. Col. MacPhail, dressed in costume, walked around the District headquarters to begin the judging and to pass out some candy to participants. For Best Cubicle decorating, first prize went to Eva Szigeti.

"Eva had awesome decorations, dandy, lights and was in costume!" said Lt. Col. MacPhail.

Second place went to Will Brandt who had cupcakes, decorations and was dressed as a project manager. Thomas Boutilier took third place.

"Thomas had an excellently decorated cubicle with depth and an interesting theme."

For the Best Decorated Section of Field Site, the Maine Project Office took the top prize for their level of effort, depth of decorating and theme. Thomaston Dam took second place for their Haunted Dam horror short.

Third place went to the Public Affairs Office for their over-the-top presentation of skeletons and documented Navy football losses.

Honorable mentions for this category were Tully Lake with their outstanding canoe scarecrow; the Mission Support Cell Office got a nod for their "Go Navy" themed graveyard; and the Safety Office impressed with a spooky inflatable doorway, skeletons and costumes.

Lt. Col. MacPhail presented certificates to the winners after the contest. "Yes, we will do this again next Halloween!" he said.



Honorable Mention - Tully Lake





Milford Harbor Dredging and Naugatuck River Basin's new portable rest rooms.



## District commemorates two year anniversary of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Nov. 15 commemorates the second anniversary of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that allowed \$17.1 billion in supplemental funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The North Atlantic Division received \$1.7 billion of that money to support investigations, construction, the Continuing Authorities Program and for operation and maintenance.

As part of the Division, the New England District received a portion of Division money for work under BIL. Here is a sampling of the projects that have used BIL money:

Fiscal Year 2022 BIL funds are being used to perform maintenance dredging in Milford Harbor, Connecticut. If worsened, shoaling in the channel would impact the ability of the public to use the federal navigation project as it was intended.

Dredging is removing the shoaling which allows the public to continue to use the project without safety or navigation issues.

The project was awarded to Coastline Consulting out of Branford, Connecticut on Sept. 11.

"Coastline will remove approximately 55,000 cubic yards (CY) of material from the entrance channel and inner harbor," said Jenifer Thalhauser, Chief of Navigation, Civil Works Branch, Programs and Project Management Division. "Dredged

sand will be placed at a nearshore site with the expectation that the sand will naturally move onto the nearby beaches over time."

The dredged silt is being used to cap an offshore disposal site used in the 1970s. 100-percent of dredged material will be used beneficially. The project is expected to be complete in Jan. 2024.

At Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Massachusetts, BIL provided more than \$350,000 for Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant parking lot and access improvements.

"From October 2022 to May 2023 work included removing a shelter, repaving the emergency access road to the beach, increasing ADA parking spaces from three to 10, and building a new paved walkway leading to an ADA-compliant ramp with handrails to the rest rooms," said Project Manager Nicole Giles.

The Buffumville team identified the need for this work in 2017 and BIL allowed it to come to fruition. The prior lack of handicapped access was a frequent comment by visitors before the improvements, and according to the site's park rangers, the team has received many positive comments since the area reopened.

Naugatuck River Basin used BIL funds to demolish the old rest room building at Northfield Brook and replace

it with a new rest room trailer.

"This was needed as the old structure was seriously damaged by flooding and was no longer usable," said Matt Coleman, Basin Manager.

The old rest room structure itself was over 40 years old and was not able to meet modern accessibility standards, and would have required hazardous materials abatement for asbestos and mold to renovate and reopen, according to Coleman.

The rest room will be replaced with a new waterborne rest room trailer that will meet modern standards for access, be easier and cheaper to clean/maintain, and be able to be moved out of the way during times of flooding in the reservoir.

Work was carried out this fall, with final site prep being completed earlier this month, and the new rest room arrived on site back in September, having been ordered through DLA. This BIL item was funded for \$125,000 and covered the cost of demolition, site preparations, purchase of the new trailer, and utility connections/upgrades.

USACE's overall fiscal year spend plans and policy guidance for implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are listed on the headquarters website at: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Supplemental-Work/BIL/>.





Vineyard Wind turbine parts make their way through the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier.



A tug pushed Vineyard Wind turbine parts to their final destination.

## Turbines pass through New Bedford Hurricane Barrier

Vineyard Wind I's first assembled turbine parts passed through the New Bedford Hurricane Protection Barrier, Sept. 6. The turbines traveled to the Vineyard Wind 1 site 14-miles south of Martha's Vineyard for installation and will become a part of the United States' first large-scale offshore wind farm.

Vineyard Wind 1 received a USACE permit authorizing 84 wind turbine generators (WTGs), two electrical service platforms, inter-array cables and two 39.4-mile transmission cables from the lease site to landfall at Covell's Beach, located in Barnstable, Massachusetts.

"The Vineyard Wind I project is located within BOEM lease site 501 and is approximately 75,614 acres in size," said Christine Jacek, Permit Manager. "Each WTG has the ability to generate 13 megawatts (MW) of power with the lease site potentially generating up to 1,092 MW."

The turbines are 815 ft. high, and each individual blade is 351 feet long. Vineyard Wind 1 was one of the first wind projects to be reviewed by USACE. Revolution Wind's project has been authorized as of Oct. 5. Other projects currently under review are New England Wind and Southcoast Wind.



# Dredging up the past



The New England District softball team circa 1990.

Back row (L - R): Mark DeSouza, Jack Perry, Neil Gerber, Paula Kullberg, Lisa Coombs, Mike Penko

Middle row (L-R): Karen Kochenbach, Christine Johnson, Dulcey Lacroix, Gary Lacroix, MaryAnne Deleppo, Terry Fleming, Pam Kildow

Front row (L-R): Steve Umbrell, Darrell Deleppo