



Spotlight on the District

Larry Reeve Lockmaster, Lock and Dam 20

By Mark Kane

Larry Reeve works and plays just north of Quincy, Ill., in an area not far from his childhood stomping grounds in New Canton, Ill. He is the lockmaster of Lock and Dam 20.

Recently, Reeve was awarded the 1999 Rock Island District Employee of the Year Award for Trades and Crafts Occupations.

He insists that he didn't earn the award, the employees of Lock and Dam 20 earned it.

"I've had good supervisors in the Corps that taught me a lot of things, a lot of good co-workers and a lot of good men that I've worked with that helped me to make lockmaster and to help me make employee of the year... I didn't do it by myself," said Reeve. "It's an honor that will never be topped, I don't think I'll ever get anything better than that... it was shocking."

Although receiving the award shocked Reeve, the reasoning behind his selection is a reflection of his track record and leadership capabilities. He has served four years as lockmaster of Lock and Dam 20, assistant lockmaster at Locks and Dams 18 and 21, as well as a lock operator at the Marseilles Lock and Dam and Locks and Dams 20 and 22.

Reeve was awarded Employee of the Year for developing new methods of accomplishing maintenance and repairs to his lock site and equipment, while saving

both time and money. His version is a little different.

"This lock historically floods every other year," said Reeve. "During a flood the water comes over the lock wall because we're lower in elevation than most of the locks and dams on the river. When that happens, we have to pull the gate and valve motors, the limit switches and put all the equipment away ... and that's very time consuming.

"To cut that time in half, we put everybody together from the electrician to the lock operators, and we came up with a flood contingency plan on how we

would remove our equipment from the lock walls during high water," said Reeve.

"Now the process is streamlined because we use everybody's input from the lock. It used to take us more than eight hours to prepare the lock for a flood, now it takes us less than four hours," said Reeve.

Reeve stresses the value of his team and side steps taking most of the credit for himself.

"We know exactly where everything goes, we keep everything in order and everybody has a duty assignment as to

where they're supposed to go and what they're supposed to do," said Reeve.

If it sounds like Reeve's leadership style stems from the military, maybe it's because it does. He held numerous positions with the Army to include duty at Scholfield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Quincy, Ill.; and is currently serving in the Army Reserve as a reserve company 1st Sgt. for the 226th Transportation Company, Granite City, Ill.

Successfully moving barge traffic up and down the Mississippi River is something Reeve doesn't take lightly. It's a job that he enjoys and is very serious about doing it.

"One of my biggest thrills is getting the industry through here and taking care of the customer, that's what we're here for," said Reeve. "I'm very sold on the fact that we operate on the taxpayer's budget, and if we don't perform for them ... well, the bottom line is that's what we're being paid to do."

Reeve lives in Quincy, Ill., and has a son currently serving in the Air Force at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. He enjoys scuba diving, racquetball and his time in the Army Reserve.

His advice to anyone reading this article is to, "do your job the best you can."

"I don't come to work mad or ticked off, I come to work because I'm glad to be here," said Reeve. "I've seen too many people that come to work sour-faced and don't like their jobs, and I'm thinking, 'why?' Give it everything you've got, and give it the best you can. Be honest, fair and do the best you can no matter who you work for." 🏠



Tower Times
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers
Rock Island District
Vol. 22 No. 6
August 2000

District Engineer
Col. William J. Bayles

Editor
Mark A. Kane

Chief, Public Affairs
Ron Fournier

This newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Tower Times are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Rock Island District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It is published monthly using offset press by the Public Affairs Office, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clock Tower Building, Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004. Phone (309) 794-5730. Circulation 1,500.

The deadline for submitting articles for the Tower Times is the 7th of the preceding month. Send articles to Editor, Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL. 61204-2004.

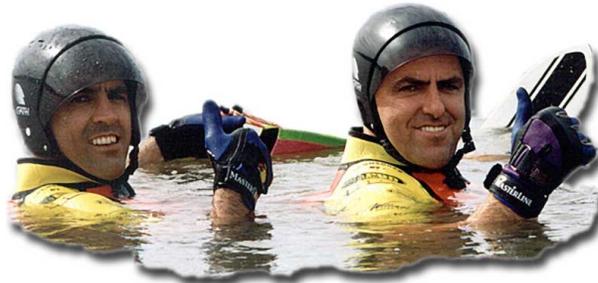
The Tower Times is printed on recycled paper.

On the web, in living color, at:
<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil>

August 2000

Tower Times

Contents



5

One for the Record Books



8

Ospreys Released at Saylorville Lake



10

Lake Red Rock Hosts Eighth Annual Beach Bash



On the Cover

Tom Gambucci, Engineering Division, removes debris entangled in levee bedding at Locks and Dam 14 as part of the District's involvement in the Adopt-a-Mississippi River Mile, July 8. Story pages 6 and 7.

Photo by Mark Kane