

Corps Day 2000

Award Winners

(Not previously published)

Employee of the Year

Professional Occupations

John A. Kincaid, Engineering Division

Technical Occupations

John C. Quick, Engineering Division

Trades and Crafts Occupations

Larry E. Reeve, Operations Division

Suggester of the Year

Kevin S. Holden, Engineering Division

Large Contractor of the Year, Safety Award

Langman Construction

Small Contractor of the Year, Safety Award

Herberger Construction

Outstanding Planning Achievement Team Award

Upper Mississippi River - Illinois Waterway System
Navigation Study Public Involvement Team

Positive Partnership Award

Col. James V. Mudd, District Engineer

District Commander's Lapel Pin

Arlene Bennyhoff, Engineering Division

Jeffrey Blazekovich, Operations Division

Mike Bunch, Resource Management

Mark Cornish, Programs and Project Management

Justine Dodge, Public Affairs

Richard Engstrom, Engineering Division

Scott Estergard, Programs and Project Management

Richard Fristik, Programs and Project Management

Olive Herrmann, Programs and Project Management

David Husted, Information Management

Don Jorgensen, Programs and Project Management

Gayla Pacheco, Equal Employment Office

Suzanne Simmons, Programs and Project Management

Rosanne Spencer, Contracting

David Tipple, Programs and Project Management

Rock Island District Employee Team Awards

Regional Job Order Contract Development Team

Dredged Material Management Plan Process Action Team

Tow Haulage Unit Retrofit Team

Mississippi River Project Eagle Watch Team

Mississippi River Navigation Charts Team

Navigation Study Public Involvement Team

National Recreation Reservation System Implementation Team

Special Emphasis Program Plan Team

Mississippi River Lock and Dam 11 Major Rehabilitation Team

Standard Procurement Implementation Team

Resource Management Office Team

Micro Modeling Team

School Canister Returned to River

A small, sealed canister was recovered from the river by a towboat crew and passed on to Lock and Dam 15 personnel, and subsequently, to Mississippi River Visitor Center staff.

The canister was part of a river communication experiment from an elementary school class from the Einstein School in Hanover Park, Ill. Visitor center staff responded to the class and returned the canister to the river, where it will continue its journey towards the Gulf of Mexico. 

Natasha Munger, student aide, Mississippi River Visitor Center, winds up to pitch the canister back into the Mississippi River.
Photo by Don Bardole, park ranger, Mississippi River Visitor Center.



District Commander's Awards

By Joann Wilgenbusch, Resource Management



March: **Rian W. Hancks**, attorney, Office of Counsel, was recognized May 24, 2000, with the **District Commander's Award for March 2000**, by Col. James Mudd, district commander.

Hancks received the award for the many contributions Hancks recently provided the District's Military Construction Program. Rock Island District has continued to provide military support to several military customers within the Rock Island District boundaries.

Part of this support includes preparation and execution of Memorandum of Agreements with installations and other Corps military districts. Hancks was instrumental in critically reviewing draft MOAs and in coordinating these MOAs at Mississippi Valley Division.

His reviews were accurate, insightful, well thought-out, and considered political realities, said Daniel J. Holmes, acting assistant, chief, Programs and Project Management. Holmes nominated Hanks for his contribution and also said, "He not only provides careful comments (to engineers/project managers), but also encourages feedback to ensure his comments are valid and appropriate. His positive attitude and timely actions have been greatly appreciated and reflect honorably on himself and the District."

April: **Kathryn J. Soska**, a park ranger, Coralville Lake, Operations Division, was recognized June 27, 2000, with the **District Commander's Award for April 2000**.

Soska received the award for the quick life-saving effort she delivered to a college student this spring.

On April 9, Soska was driving her personal vehicle near her

home in Iowa City, when she saw a jogger collapse on the sidewalk. She immediately pulled over and assisted the fallen jogger who had turned blue and was not breathing. Soska performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation with the assistance of another person, until emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene.

Soska's immediate response was instrumental in saving the life of the 24-year-old dental student.

Soska has been a park ranger for more than 20 years at Coralville Lake. During this period, she has maintained her First Responder certification, even though this is no longer a mandatory certification for park rangers.

May: Olive "Ollie" M. Herrmann, a secretary, Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division, was recognized June 27, 2000, with the **District Commander's Award for May 2000**.

Herrmann received the award for her quick, life-saving effort, recently performed on a District employee.

On May 10, at approximately 12:30 p.m., an employee was eating his lunch in his office when a piece of meat lodged in his throat. He couldn't dislodge it and proceeded out of his office to seek help, as he was becoming faint.

Herrmann was the only person in the office and quickly responded to his frantic choking motions. She immediately administered the Heimlich maneuver, and with several sharp blows, the piece of meat was dislodged and the employee began to breathe again.

If Ollie had not performed this courageous act, the employee (who happens to be her supervisor) would not be alive today.

Fishing Clinic Held at Visitor Center

The Rock Island District celebrated Illinois Free Fishing Days on June 10 at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, which featured educational sessions on water safety, fishing skills and fish identification.

A fishing contest was also held that afternoon, where prizes were awarded to many of the fisherman. Thirty-five fishing enthusiasts, ranging in age from five to adult age participated.

The Quad City In-Fisherman's Club volunteered their time to assist in the event, it was covered by all three Quad City television stations. The prizes, lunch and snacks for clinic participants were provided by 39 local businesses. 

A young participant answers questions from a local journalist, while keeping a keen eye on his fishing line.

