



# News Release

## US Army Corps of Engineers®

Mississippi Valley Division/  
Mississippi River Commission

[cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil)

Release #: 01-11

For Release: June 21, 2001

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Phone: 601-634-5760 / 7783

---

## MVD AWARDS DAY

VICKSBURG, Miss., June 21, 2001 -- The Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission (MVD/MRC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, held their annual awards ceremony today. The following awards were presented:

### GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES



Mr. Joseph R. McCormick, Jr., was inducted into the Mississippi River Commission Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees. A special ceremony was held following the Engineer Day Awards ceremony, where a plaque with an engraved portrait of Mr. McCormick was placed on a gallery board displaying plaques of previously selected members.

The Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees was established in 1970 as a means of recognizing outstanding retired civilian employees of the Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission. Mr. McCormick is the 43rd inductee to the gallery since its inception in 1970.

Mr. McCormick retired in January 2001, as chief of the Water Control Branch, with more than 31 years of service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As a recognized expert on the Mississippi River Valley, Mr. McCormick provided leadership and guidance in virtually all issues relating to the Mississippi River Basin. Through his extensive knowledge of the history, hydraulic design and operational criteria of the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T)<sup>1/</sup> project features, he provided invaluable guidance on operating and optimizing the performance of the largest single flood protection project in the world (the MR&T project).

## 2-2-2 Awards Day

### ERNEST P. BLANKENSHIP AWARDS

The Blankenship awards are among the highest honorary awards presented to Mississippi Valley Division employees by the local commander. The awards cover three categories: engineer/scientist, professional and technical/administrative. Established in 1987, they memorialize the commitment, dedication and knowledge of the long-time Mississippi Valley Division Executive Assistant, who died in 1973.

#### Engineer/Scientist Award



Mr. William E. "Buddy" Arnold was the recipient of the Ernest P. Blankenship Engineer/Scientist Award. He is a senior program manager in the Planning and Programs Management Division.

Mr. Arnold was recognized for his exceptional leadership and guidance in the planning arena during the past year, to include: serving on a Corps-wide focus team for the Corporate Business Processes initiative and serving as chairman of the Mississippi Valley Division working team for this effort; coordinating the review and processing of the Reelfoot Lake Feasibility Report, under tight time constraints; and coordinating a number of legislative proposals.

In addition, Mr. Arnold championed the development of a division Action Plan, including initiation of a regional planning workshop, focused on improving the planning capability throughout the Mississippi Valley Division.

#### Professional Award



Mrs. Terrie E. Ferguson received the Ernest P. Blankenship Professional Award. Mrs. Ferguson was recognized for the outstanding performance of her duties as a program analyst in the Programs Development Division, responsible for overall regional management of current and projected Mississippi River Levees and Channel Improvement Programs.

She worked with four of the Mississippi Valley Division's six districts to improve program performance and provided guidance on program development, costs, workloads, and schedules for the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Appropriation. In addition, she effectively participated in the planning, execution and analysis of alternative programs for the Channel Improvement Project.

### 3-3-3 Awards Day

Throughout the year, Mrs. Ferguson prepared, reviewed, coordinated and consolidated pertinent data for a variety of exercises. She also prepared the consolidated Mississippi River Levees and Channel Improvement budget submission and supported the development and defense of the MR&T Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2001.

#### Technical/Administrative Award



Ms. Cecilia A. Robertson was the recipient of the Ernest P. Blankenship Technical/Administrative Award. She is an administrative support assistant in the Technical Engineering and Construction Division.

Ms. Robertson was recognized for her exceptional abilities in the area of leadership and office management skills during the past year.

In the absence of a supervisor for more than half the year, Ms. Robertson continued to provide timely and thorough service to her clients and her Engineering and Construction team members. She also exercised her leadership skills in making decisions that resulted in positive impacts for the entire Technical Engineering and Construction staff.

In addition, through her initiative and technical competence, Ms. Robertson developed an accounting spreadsheet that not only ensured proper accountability of the Technical Engineering and Construction Division funds, but also ensured that her team members received the most services from the funds budgeted.

#### EEO OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Mr. Louis Logue was the recipient of the Equal Employment Opportunity Outstanding Achievement Award. Mr. Logue is chief of the Operations Division.

Mr. Logue was recognized for his support of the Equal Employment Opportunity program. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Wage Grade Training Program and its implementation in all six districts of the Mississippi Valley Division.

#### 4-4-4 Awards Day

The Wage Grade Training Program provides the opportunity for lower graded employees to receive the training and experience needed to obtain a riverboat pilot's license, thus enabling the employees to compete for higher-level positions.

Additionally, Mr. Logue was very successful in getting minorities to enter the program and continues his efforts to increase minority participation in the Wage Grade Training Program.

### STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



The Student Employee of the Year Award is given to a student who has accomplished assigned duties in such a manner as to have clearly established a pattern of excellence during the past year.

This year's award was presented to Ms. Jackie M. Reed, an office assistant in the Resource Management Office. Ms. Reed also provided clerical support to the Equal Employment Opportunity and Programs Management offices.

Ms. Reed was recognized for the exemplary manner in which she performed her duties over the past year. In addition to carrying out her normal clerical duties, Ms. Reed developed charts, consolidated data, summarized and tracked initiatives and developed graphics for a number of presentations and meetings, her efforts being instrumental in their success.

<sup>1/</sup> *The Mississippi River and Tributaries Project is the lower Mississippi Valley's comprehensive flood control, navigation and environmental protection plan.* <http://www.Nwsinfo/MRTBrochure.htm>