



News Release

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Mississippi Valley Division/
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cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Phone: 601-634-7783

MVD AWARDS DAY

VICKSBURG, Miss., June 14, 2004 -- The Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission (MVD/MRC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, held their annual awards ceremony Thursday, June 3. The following awards were presented:

GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES



Caldwell

Messrs. Noel D. (Dean) Caldwell and James A. (Tony) Young were inducted into the Mississippi River Commission Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees.

A special ceremony was held following the Engineer Day Awards ceremony, where plaques with engraved portraits of Messrs. Young and Caldwell were 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.

Messrs. Caldwell and Young are the 47th and 48th inductees to the gallery since its inception.

Both men were dedicated public servants who had the respect of all who worked with them, including the districts, division and Corps headquarters.



Young

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2-2-2 Awards Day

DEAN CALDWELL

During his 37-year career with the federal government, which includes 23 years on the division/commission staff, Mr. Caldwell served on many special reorganization and restructuring teams and task forces to develop plans for the Corps of Engineers, both within the district or division as well as the headquarters office. He continually provided outstanding advice and counsel to the division commander and subordinate districts on development of plans for more efficient and effective operations.

During the period of January 1994 to January 1999, he served in the dual role of deputy to the President of the Mississippi River Commission and legislative and governmental liaison officer and executive assistant to the President of the MRC and its commissioners and the Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division. In his capacity as liaison officer, Mr. Caldwell provided information and assistance to local sponsors and congressional interests concerning numerous projects.

In early 1998, Mr. Caldwell was highly instrumental in organizing the bipartisan Mississippi River Caucus in the United States House of Representatives. This group, comprised of over 30 members of congress whose districts border the Mississippi River, provides a forum to discuss, foster, promote and encourage matters of mutual concern relating to the Mississippi River. Mr. Caldwell's tireless efforts in working with these congressionals and their staff members were very beneficial in helping these members understand the Mississippi Valley Division's programs.

Mr. Caldwell led the planning, coordination and execution of numerous successful Mississippi River Commission inspection trips and meetings. His knowledge of the laws and legislative requirements and operating policies of the commission was unsurpassed.

TONY YOUNG

Mr. Young retired as Chief of the Geotechnical and Materials Branch in January 2002 with more than 33 years of federal service, 31 of those he served with the Mississippi Valley Division.

Mr. Young was a principal member of the Engineering Division staff, as well as a technical expert, advisor and consultant on soil mechanics and foundation activities of the division.

3-3-3 Awards Day

As a recognized expert in the Mississippi River Valley, Mr. Young provided effective quality assurance, command and control, regional interface and program management of geotechnical activities for the division's six districts. Mr. Young also provided technically sound and timely advice to the MRC/MVD staff and district counterparts on a number of large projects.

Throughout his career, Mr. Young continually displayed selfless dedication, impeccable integrity and exceptional professionalism.

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. Freddie S. Rush was the recipient of the Ernest P. Blankenship Engineer/Scientist Award. He is an electrical engineer with the Programs Directorate, New Orleans District Support Team.

Mr. Rush was recognized for the leadership he provided to several nationally significant Corps projects, which resulted in their successful completion.

His accomplishments included:

-- Chairing the Mississippi Valley Division's Independent Technical Review Team on the Critical Projects Security Program. Under Mr. Rush's leadership, this team conducted timely reviews of several projects to ensure the protection plans developed would protect these key pieces of infrastructure from terrorists' attacks.

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4-4-4 Awards Day

-- Chairing the Corps' Specification Steering Committee, composed of members from Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, eight Corps divisions and five Corps districts, which led to advancements in state-of-the-art specifications engineering, thereby benefiting the Corps and the engineering professional worldwide.

-- Leading the transition/implementation effort for two new software packages throughout the division. These initiatives will allow members of MVD and its six districts to work on virtual teams and take advantage of new innovative technology to improve the delivery and quality of the division's products.

Professional Award



Mr. James L. Marshall received the Ernest P. Blankenship Professional Award. Mr. Marshall, a program analyst in the Programs Directorate, Civil Works Integration Division, was recognized for his management of current and projected Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) studies and projects, which resulted in an exceptional 100% execution of funds.

Mr. Marshall responded to numerous exercises throughout the year requiring analyses of the MR&T program to ensure maximum use of available fiscal year 2003 funds. Throughout the year, he prepared, reviewed, coordinated and consolidated pertinent data, as well as prepared the consolidated Mississippi River Levees/Channel Improvement budget submission for the President's fiscal year 2004 budget and initial fiscal year 2005 budget.

Technical/Administrative Award



Mrs. Patricia Tullos was the recipient of the Ernest P. Blankenship Technical/Administrative Award. Mrs. Tullos is an administrative support assistant in the Programs Directorate (District Support Team for St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis Districts), and was recognized for the outstanding performance of her duties in 2003.

Mrs. Tullos was recognized for the outstanding performance of her job in 2003, which included assuming responsibilities outside her established duties.

5-5-5 Awards Day

Her efforts significantly improved the Real Estate Office's ability to control the review and approval processes in a number of areas -- to include Real Estate Plans, Continuing Authorities Program reports and Environmental Management Programs -- all of which significantly increased in numbers during the past years.

Recent funding shortfalls required Mrs. Tullos to redouble her efforts to ensure that the Real Estate Office presented accurate funding requirements while striving to stay within the budget.

She also performed exceptionally in other areas such as tracking and scheduling training, and planning and budgeting for the acquisition of equipment.

In addition, in December 2003, Mrs. Tullos' supervisor, Charles Barton, was deployed to Iraq for 120 days. Mrs. Tullos handled all the processing necessary to facilitate his timely deployment, and worked diligently to ensure that the organization continued to function smoothly under acting chiefs.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



Mrs. Clair Purviance was the recipient of the Mississippi Valley Division Woman of the Year Award. She is the Regulatory Team Leader in the Regional Business Directorate, Business Resource Division.

Mrs. Purviance was recognized for her outstanding performance as the Mississippi Valley Division's Budget Officer.

Her major contributions included: supporting the division's transformation initiative, leading the Business Resource Division's regional operation functional assessment, developing a major command budget briefing and providing professional development for subordinates.

STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Ms. Jackie M. Reed was the recipient of the Student Employee of the Year Award. She is a student trainee in the Business Resource Division, Regional Business Directorate.

This 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.

Ms. Reed was recognized for her outstanding performance as the key Manpower and Budget Assistant in supporting all aspects of the directorate.

Her major contributions included support to: the division's transformation initiative, an MR&T Functional Area Analysis, Business Resource Division's regional operation functional assessment, a major command budget briefing and monthly manpower utilization reviews, as well as continuing support to the Resource Management and Equal Employment Opportunity offices.