



# News Release

## US Army Corps of Engineers®

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Mississippi River Commission  
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## Mississippi Valley Division Awards Day

VICKSBURG, Miss., July 6, 2006 -- The Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, held its annual awards ceremony today. The following awards were presented:

### GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

Messrs. Thomas F. "Fred" Caver, Jr., and Max S. Lamb 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. Caver and Lamb 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. Caver and Lamb are the 50th and 51st inductees to the gallery since its inception.

### FRED CAVER



Caver

Mr. Caver retired in June 2005 with more than 35 years of federal service. He provided eight years of dedicated service to the Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission from May 1988 until May 1996; serving the last two years as Director of Programs and Project Management.

While at the division, Mr. Caver was one of a small group of people selected from across the Corps to help design a new system of project management for the Corps, in an effort to revolutionize its business processes.

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## 2-2-2-2 Awards

The recommendations of his group led the Corps to move to a more customer-focused approach and were approved for implementation by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). Mr. Caver played a key role in implementing the new project management concepts throughout the division. His efforts in developing and implementing the new concepts led to improved teamwork and increased flexibility and efficiencies throughout the division.

Mr. Caver was also responsible for creating the division's Directorate of Programs and Project Management. At the time, the division was in the process of a major downsizing effort that resulted in the loss of many of the long-time division leaders within a very short time period. Numerous people were reassigned to unfamiliar jobs. Despite the uncertainty, the division succeeded because of the downsizing strategy that Mr. Caver designed. He managed to infuse enthusiasm and a sense of teamwork among the people, while continuing to support the division's customers in a way that made the changes transparent.

Recognized as a top leader in government, Mr. Caver has been an exemplary ambassador for the Army's Civil Works program, placing special emphasis in building relationships with customers and stakeholders founded on mutual respect and shared goals.

## MAX LAMB



Prior to his retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1993 with 37 years of Government service, Mr. Lamb provided 20 years of dedicated service to the Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission. While at the division:

- Mr. Lamb used his river engineering expertise to guide the division's Channel Improvement project following the 1973 Flood in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Under his guidance, critical revetment and dike work was completed, which provided protection for Mississippi River levees and helped maintain a safe and dependable navigation channel. The work also reduced dredging costs and improved navigational safety.
- Mr. Lamb and his team developed a solution that sustained deep-draft navigation, with minimal dredging, at mile 20 above the Head of Passes, La.
- Directed the Channel Improvement project in the use of automated revetment design using the then-new CADD technology. While CADD was in its infancy, Mr. Lamb encouraged efforts to automate hydro-survey data so it could be used in automated programs to design dikes and revetment. He also directed the development of the first GIS data base in the Corps of Engineers. The River Engineering and Environmental Graphic Information System was used to store and retrieve dike, revetment, survey and map data.

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### 3-3-3 Awards

- Funded and encouraged the Lower Mississippi River Environmental Studies Program for environmental studies and dike notching on the Mississippi River to help ensure its environmental sustainability for the Lower Mississippi River Valley.
- Led a Corps team to Venezuela on two occasions to assist in navigation development on the Orinoco and Apure rivers.

## 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. Charles E. Shadie was the recipient of the Ernest P. Blankenship Engineer/Scientist Award. Mr. Shadie, a civil engineer in the Programs Directorate, was recognized for the exemplary performance of his duties.

Mr. Shadie's thorough knowledge of hydrology and hydraulics principles and practices, as well as his exceptional judgment, led to the successful conception, analysis, design and construction of numerous projects within the Mississippi Valley Division.

In addition, Mr. Shadie was instrumental in the dewatering of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, being on the scene as soon as conditions allowed. His knowledge and insight of the area were invaluable to the effective placement of portable pumps and diversion of flows to quickly remove floodwaters from the city. He continued to be in the forefront of recovery efforts, developing and evaluating proposals for the restoration of hurricane protection to coastal Louisiana, particularly New Orleans. His knowledge and insight of the area added immeasurably to the development of future hurricane protection projects in the short time frame available.

In addition to his regular daily duties and work related to Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, Mr. Shadie developed and taught the Hydrology and Hydraulics Considerations in Planning short course. He also developed and coordinated technical workshops for navigation, flood control and environmental restoration.

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## 4-4-4 Awards

### Professional Award



Mrs. Lisa M. Jackson received the Ernest P. Blankenship Professional Award. Ms. Jackson, the Regional Chief of Information Management, was recognized for her leadership, counseling, mentoring and guidance to Information Management professionals throughout the Mississippi Valley during a period of unprecedented challenge.

Under her leadership, the Mississippi Valley Division's Information Management community provided quick and effective support for the mobilization of more than 3,000 personnel involved in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita response and recovery operations. This period was made even more challenging by an ongoing competitive sourcing study for Information Management where 1,300 positions throughout the Corps, including hundreds in the Mississippi Valley were to be impacted. During this analysis, Mrs. Jackson applied objectivity and displayed confidence while steadying the morale of the Information Management community in the Mississippi Valley.

Mrs. Jackson was recognized for her outstanding support to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery operations during two deployments and her continued active support for the competitive sourcing initiative. In addition, under this physically and psychologically stressful environment, and extremely demanding workload, Mrs. Jackson continued her commitment to self-development, completing the requirements for certification as a Chief Information Officer.

### Administrative Award



Ms. Caroline P. Cummins received the Ernest P. Blankenship Technical/Administrative Award. Ms. Cummins, an Office Automation Assistant in the Watershed Division, was recognized for the exemplary performance of her duties.

Ms. Cummins deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, periodically performed the duties of two positions, assumed additional budget duties and performed her regular duties in an outstanding manner.

Ms. Cummins was the first administrative person to deploy with the Mississippi Valley Division's Forward office in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. During her deployment, she established many of the procedures and processes that would be used by the administrative staff that followed. During her deployment she provided support to both Division Forward and Corps headquarters; always willing to do whatever was required to accomplish the assigned mission.

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## 5-5-5 Awards

During the past year, Ms. Cummins was frequently asked not only to perform in her assigned position, but also perform the duties of another position due to temporary duty assignments, illness and deployments. In addition to her regular administrative duties, she assumed budget submission and tracking responsibilities for the entire Watershed Division. Ms. Cummins accomplished all duties in an exemplary manner by "going the extra mile" to assure all work was completed timely and correctly.

## WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



Ms. Karen Buehler received the Mississippi Valley Division Woman of the Year Award. She is a Public Affairs Specialist in the Public Affairs Office.

Ms. Buehler was recognized for the exemplary performance of her Public Affairs duties, as well as the execution of added responsibilities as a result of volunteering to support Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Ms. Buehler deployed on three separate occasions for a total of 134 days. In addition to working 12-hour days, 7 days a week during her deployments, she continued to handle the majority of her non-Katrina related public affairs duties, as well.

## COMMANDER'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Mr. Mark Mazzanti, Chief of the Civil Works Integration Division, was the recipient of the Commander's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity.

Mr. Mazzanti contributed significantly to the Mississippi Valley Division EEO Program by employing and developing minority and women employees in new lines of work. Through his outstanding leadership and personal efforts, opportunities were presented for development, growth and improvement in job skills and abilities. His contributions to the Mississippi Valley Division and the EEO program resulted in a level of productivity that greatly enhanced accomplishment of the division's mission.

## COMMANDER'S AWARD FOR CIVILIAN SERVICE

Commander's Awards for Civilian Service were presented to Mrs. Esther Banks, Mrs. Barbara Hearn and Mr. Larry Kilgo.

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## **6-6-6-6 Awards**

Mrs. Banks was recognized for her outstanding service and support to the Mississippi Valley Division during prolonged key employee absences due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita deployments. She is a Program Analyst in the Business Management Division.

She managed the continued operations of the Regional Management Board, Regional Command Council and Emerging Leaders program in the absence of the Executive Director and Chairman.

In addition to her normal duties, Mrs. Banks also provided ongoing support to the division's Emergency Operations Center to assist with tasks in support of employee deployments.

Mrs. Hearn was recognized for her outstanding service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the period August 2005 through June 2006. She is a Budget Analyst in the Business Resource Division.

She ensured that all of the Emergency Management financial actions relating to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were handled responsively. In addition, Mrs. Hearn effectively developed and led a detailed Budget Training Course for division administrative personnel.

Mr. Kilgo was recognized for his exceptional service to the Mississippi Valley Division through his significant role in the plan formulation and technical and planning policy review of Civil Works planning decision documents. He is Chief of the Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch at the Corps' Vicksburg District.

Mr. Kilgo provided vital economic and financial review of decision documents and his advice was utilized to improve the quality of Mississippi Valley Division decision documents.

He also supported the Corps Headquarters' PROSPECT training program by providing instructional lectures on development of Project Cooperation Agreements and the supporting Financial Analysis Package.

In addition, Mr. Kilgo provided professional guidance to researchers as a field advisor to the Institute for Water Resources Flood Damage Analysis Program.

## **LENGTH OF SERVICE**

Sixteen employees, representing 405 years of federal service, received length of service certificates, ranging from 10 to 35 years of service.