



*Remarks by Major General Phillip R. Anderson,
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division,
at the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway Naming
Ceremony, Caddo/Bossier City, 19 April 2000*

Senator Johnston, Senator Breaux, Senator Landrieu, Congressman Waggoner, other elected officials, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Ballard, good morning and congratulations on reaching this milestone.

In addition to representing Gen. Ballard, I also bring you greetings from former Chief of Engineer Lt. Gen. Art Williams, who sent the following note, which I'll read in part.

Now, knowing that I would be up here with some excellent speakers covering the same topic from a different perspective -- and talking before the keynote speaker, I wanted to find a fitting message for this happy occasion without repeating what's already been said, and may still be said.

After considering the growth and remarkable progress that's been made to the Red River Basin, my thoughts focused on history -- on the many improvements made possible by the original members of the Red River Valley Association and the original members of the Red River Waterway Commission -- and, of course, the namesake for today's ceremony, Senator J. Bennett Johnston.

At first, I thought what a shame it was that all of the original founders of those two organizations couldn't be here to see the wonderful developments -- like this waterway we are naming today. Indeed, the entire waterway system would be an amazing sight for them to behold.

But then I remembered something important - the original founders did indeed see the Waterway System. They saw it in their minds eye, they dreamed it. The founders started with a clear vision many, many years ago, as did Senator Johnston.

I am reminded of a quote by T. E. Lawrence, a man also known as Lawrence of Arabia, who said, "All men dream; but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity; but the dreamers of the day can make things happen, they may act their dreams with open eyes, to make it all possible."

And so, today we name the latest addition to the dream of Senator Johnston, and all the men who made this possible.

Again, I congratulate Senator Johnston and his family for this fine honor, and I congratulate the people of this precious river basin.

I know that you will all continue to live the
Vision created so many years ago.

Thank You.