

# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 163

May 2014

*An organization of retirees of the Water Resources Discipline, U.S. Geological Survey, whose purpose is to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In our May Newsletter we have more about our WRD Retirees Reunion on October 2-4, 2014 in Portland, Maine. There has been some confusion about signing up for certain trips, so please check carefully to be sure to get the trip you want. We have a new article about the reunion on pages 4-5. Reunion Chair Derrill Cowing and the Local Arrangements Committee are preparing a great reunion. Sign up soon!

Thanks to Celso Puente, our hard-working Treasurer, we now have a good fix on the long term trends in the WRD Retirees budget. This has allowed us to allocate funds for the 2014 Hydrologic Technicians Scholarship Program which has been a great success for many years. We have an article about the budget and scholarships on page 24.

We have been putting in a lot of hard work preparing the new 2014 40th Edition of the WRD Retirees Directory, which we plan to mail out on May 21. Many thanks go to the Regional Directors and the District Contacts (we still call them Districts), and Andy Anderson, Bill Boning, and Charles Nethaway for helping with updating the data. Of course, thanks, too, to Tom Yorke as the overall editor whose work makes the Directory a big success.

Finally, thanks to our own Dick Engberg and the AWRA, we have an outstanding issue of "Water Resources Impact," which can be found as follows: "AWRA at 50: The Future of Water Resources in the United States, Water Resources Impact, American Water Resources Association, Jan. 2014." Dick is the Guest Editor of the entire issue! Download your free copy of the January 2014 Water Resources IMPACT today! You can find the full-color PDF issue through an Internet search on "AWRA at 50."

With the lead article, "The Future of Water Resources in the United States," and 18 articles on topics ranging from water law and pricing to floods, drought management and agriculture, and authors including Gerald Galloway, Debra Knopman, Ben Grumbles and Brenda Bateman, this is already being called one of Water Resources IMPACT's best issues ever.



As President Tim Smith says, the **2014 Portland Reunion** is going well. **Please read all the reunion material carefully** and Sign Up Soon! The material is on pages 4 through 5, page 6 is a re-print of the Registration Form, and page 7 reflects an initial agenda. See you there!

<b>National Officers:</b> Ethan t. (Tim) Smith, President Alberto (Al) Condes, Vice President Clarence (Andy) Anderson, Secretary Celso Puente, Treasurer Richard (Dick) Engberg, Archivist	<b>Regional Directors:</b> Sharon Goss, Northeast Richard (Dick) Bloyd, Southeast C.R. (Bob) Burchett, Central E.James (Jim) Crompton, Western	<b>Newsletter Staff:</b> Editor: Charles Nethaway Layout Editor: Merilee Bennett NR: Anna Lennox SR: Vivian Olcott CR: Richard Hawkinson WR: John Klein	<b>Address:</b> WRD Retirees P.O. Box 280 Herndon, VA 20172-0280 Phone (703) 648-5641 Web Page: WRD Retirees.org Email: wrdretirees@usgs.gov
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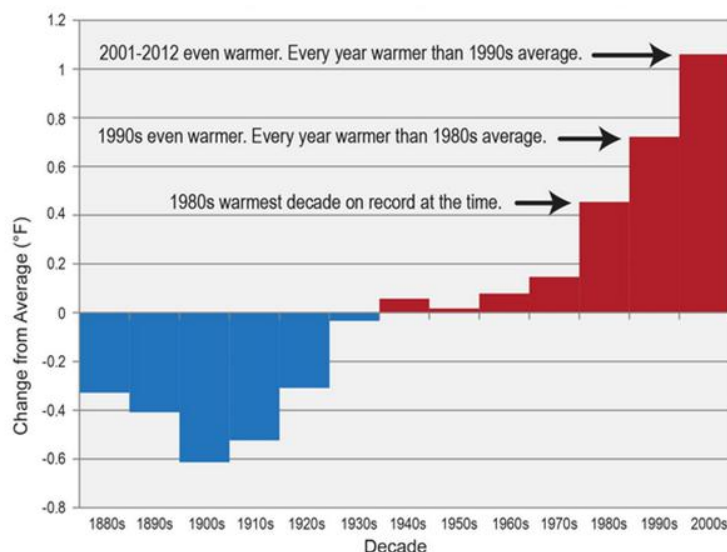
## WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH?

### Climate Change and Water Resources

Jerad Bales, Acting Associate Director for Water

It is appropriate to talk about climate change and water resources in this edition of the newsletter, as the third National Climate Assessment (NCA) was released on May 5 (<http://www.globalchange.gov/>). Chapter 3 of the NCA is about Water Resources, and was co-authored by NRP's Mike Dettinger; I co-led a team of Federal scientists who provided technical input to this chapter. Chapter 10 of the assessment addresses Water, Energy, and Land Use.

So, what do we know? It is getting warmer (Fig. 1). As of December 2013, the last time the global land and ocean monthly average temperature was lower than the 20th century monthly mean was in February 1985, or a period of 346 consecutive months. Since 1882, there has been a clear upward trend in global mean temperature, punctuated by a few short periods of stable or falling temperature. This upward trend in temperature is consistent with the theory that change in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) alters surface temperature through the greenhouse effect. Other important greenhouse gases include water vapor (the most important greenhouse gas), methane, and ozone. The CO<sub>2</sub> – temperature connection was most clearly articulated by S.V. Arrhenius in 1896, but the existence of the effect was suggested as early as 1824. Alexander Graham Bell suggested in 1917 that the world should move from carbon-base fuels in order to reduce the effects of CO<sub>2</sub> on global temperature.



**Figure 1.** Global mean decadal temperature departure from 1901 – 2000 mean temperature. (National Climate Assessment, 2014)

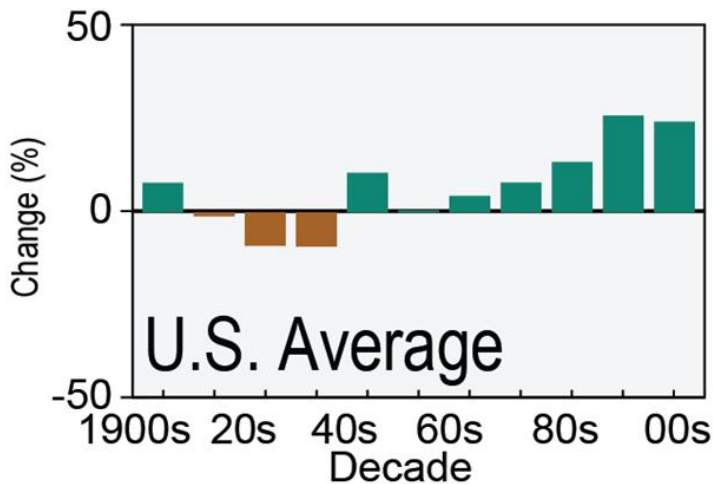
We also know that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are higher than they have been in 800,000 years, although levels may have been higher 500 million years ago during the Cambrian period. Historical information on CO<sub>2</sub> for the past 800,000 years comes from measurements of CO<sub>2</sub> in air bubbles trapped in a 3.2 km long ice core extracted from the ice sheet in East Antarctic. Moreover, the rate of change in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has been much greater in the last century than recorded in the ice core. During about the last two decades atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has increased more than 30 parts per million (ppm), whereas the fastest rate of change recorded in the ice core was about 30 ppm per 1,000 years.

We know that a warmer atmosphere holds more water vapor, which is a powerful greenhouse gas. If the temperature increases, more water evaporates (if there is water available) and becomes water vapor, and vice versa. So when something else causes a temperature increase (such as additional CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels), atmospheric water vapor increases. Then, because water vapor is a

## WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH?

greenhouse gas, this additional water vapor causes the atmospheric temperature to go up even further—a positive feedback.

Some have suggested that increased water vapor in the atmosphere will lead to an increase in flooding. We do know that there appears to be an increase in heavy precipitation events (Fig. 2),



where heavy is a very subjective term with different meanings to climatologists and water-resources engineers, for example. We also would expect (and have observed) that climate change will alter atmospheric circulation patterns, thereby affecting precipitation. Whereas there is a solid physical linkage between temperature and greenhouse gases, the relation between heavy precipitation events and temperature is based on logical reasoning and about 100 years of observations. It is less clear if this change in precipitation has led to changes in flooding, but there is anecdotal evidence that municipal storm water systems are less able to deal with storm runoff now than in the past.

**Figure 2.** Percent changes in the annual amount of precipitation falling in very heavy events, defined as the heaviest 1% of all daily events from 1901 to 2012. In recent decades there have been increases nationally, with the largest increases in the Northeast, Great Plains, Midwest, and Southeast. Changes are compared to the 1901-1960 average. (National Climate Assessment, 2014)

There is, however, no observational evidence to suggest that annual flood magnitudes uniformly increased in the U.S. during the last century in response to increases in CO<sub>2</sub> (Hirsch and Ryberg, 2011, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2011.621895> ). Rather, annual flood magnitudes increased in some parts of the U.S., and decreased in other parts of the country. There also is some correspondence between regions exhibiting increases in heavy precipitation and regions showing increases in annual flood magnitudes, i.e., the Great Plains, Midwest, and Northeast.

As the National Climate Assessment notes, projected “changes in overall precipitation are uncertain in many U.S. areas. “ Converting projections of temperature and precipitation into projections of stream flow and groundwater storage creates even more uncertainty. Currently, projections of mean annual discharge from climate model output generally have very large uncertainties and are not adequate for planning. Again, quoting the National Climate Assessment, “in most U.S. regions, water resources managers and planners will encounter new risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities that may not be properly managed within existing practices.” Continued and enhanced monitoring, increased analysis of monitoring results, development of new analysis tools, and improved understanding of the water cycle all are needed to enhance the capacity of the water-resources management community to a changing climate.

**Seventeenth WRD Retirees Reunion 2014  
Portland, Maine**

**May Newsletter Update on the Reunion Activities and Registration Process**  
**Please Read this update before filling out Registration Form**



Casco Bay Lines Peaks Island Ferry arriving at the Portland Ferry Terminal



Train between Portland and Conway, NH

Twenty Five early registrations have been received as of April 15<sup>th</sup>. There has been some confusion when selecting the options for the Saturday Foliage Tour to Conway, NH. The tour bus ride to Conway costs \$30 per person. Once in Conway, the Valley Train Ride with dining car lunch can be selected for an additional \$50 per person. In the early registrations, this Conway trip with the Valley Train ride has been a very popular selection. In order to accommodate as many people as possible when additional registrations are submitted, we have reserved the full dining car (capacity 47) for our attendees. In addition, the Valley Train group manager has provided us with information for making reservations in the 1<sup>st</sup> Class and Coach Cars on the Valley Train. The rate for 1<sup>st</sup> Class is: \$32 with the option to add a box lunch for \$13. The rate for Coach is \$24 with the option to add a box lunch for \$13. As we receive additional registrations, we will accommodate as many people as possible in the dining car. Then we will reserve 1<sup>st</sup> Class seats with box lunch (\$45) as more registrations are received with selection of the Valley Train option. We will let potential attendees know when the dining car is full, by posting a notice on the WRD Retirees web page and the WRD Retirees Facebook page. A check will be issued to reimburse anyone that has overpaid the day of registration. If you have any questions, call Derrill Cowing at 207/242-0826 (Cell).

Lee Lenfest is making arrangements with a local golf course for those interested in playing golf while at the reunion. If you are interested in a round of golf, please email Lee at [lleenfest@gmail.com](mailto:lleenfest@gmail.com). The better estimate he has of the number interested, the easier it will be for him to set up the date, time, and venue for the golf outing.

The international ferry from Portland, ME to Yarmouth, NS, CA and return is scheduled to begin service in May. This is a newly built ship and is expected to be a popular trip for both US and Canadian travelers. Specific information about the ferry such as schedule, costs, and onboard activities; visit their web site at: <http://novastarcruises.com/>. **Please note a passport is required to travel on this ferry to Yarmouth, NS.**

We are currently working with travel and tour companies to develop a Post Reunion trip along the coast of Maine from Portland to Acadia National Park on Mt. Desert Island at the mouth of the Penobscot River. The trip would begin Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup>, and be 2-3 days long. It would take in many points of interest along the coastal route. However, the focus of the event would be the visit to Acadia National Park. October is a spectacular time of year to visit the Park and see the rugged coastline of Maine, Penobscot Bay, and Cadillac Mountain during full fall foliage colors. In order to determine the potential scope of this event, we are asking anyone interested in this Post Reunion trip to email Derrill Cowing at [djcowing@aol.com](mailto:djcowing@aol.com). As we develop a better idea of the interest and preferred modes of transportation, we can fill in the details on potential cost and expected schedule for the trip.

Remember, register early. The sooner the Local Arrangements Committee has an estimate of the total number of attendees and their interests, the better able we are to serve you. Also, we may ask some of you to help with support activities during the reunion.

**Seventeenth WRD Retirees Reunion 2014  
Portland, Maine**

**Local Arrangements Committee Members:**

Bill Bartlett  
Lee Lenfest  
Rick Fontaine  
Marion Fisher and Walton Low  
Carolyn and Alan Lumb  
Doug Posson  
Mary Jean and Derrill Cowing

**Optional Early Trip to L.L. Bean Flagship and the Delorme Map Stores**

**NOTE:** To those attendees interested in both tours on Saturday, we are making special arrangements to add a trip to ***Freeport for the L.L. Bean store*** and ***Yarmouth to the Delorme map store*** on Thursday (Oct. 2nd) from about 9:00 AM to about 3:00 PM. This would require that the interested parties travel to Portland and overnight on Oct. 1st, adding an extra day to your hotel stay, in order to catch the van to Freeport the next morning. Since this is an ad hoc adventure, call Derrill Cowing (Cell #207-242-0826) to schedule your seats on the van/bus and include a note with your registration form expressing your interest as well. If you have already registered (Bless your soul), give Derrill a call and he will add this trip to your package. We will scale this trip to the level of demand and work out a nominal fee for the event.

**SEVENTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2014**  
**Portland, Maine**  
**Thursday, October 2nd through Saturday, October 4th, 2014**

Complete the following form, keep a copy, and mail the completed form, with check payable to:  
 "WRD Retirees Reunion 2014"

WRD Retirees Reunion  
 Derrill J. Cowing  
 P.O. Box 339  
 Monmouth, ME 04259

**OR** You can pay with a credit card using PayPal and send the payment to the email address:  
[PayPal](mailto:WRD.REUNION.2014@gmail.com) WRD.REUNION.2014@gmail.com

**REGISTRATION--Deadline August 29, 2014** - Refunds are available prior to the August 29th deadline.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

<b>REGISTRATION FEE:</b>	NUMBER _____ @ \$75 per person	\$ _____
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Includes costs of the Thursday evening informal reunion kick-off gathering, Friday breakfast before the business meeting, and Hospitality Room activities for the three days.

<b>THURSDAY OCTOBER 2, 2014</b>
Reunion Check-in Noon to 6 p.m. Hospitality Room will open at Noon. Informal Reunion kick-off gathering from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be an open meeting to discuss USGS Information Technology (IT) topics from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the hotel.

<b>FRIDAY, October 3, 2014</b>				
Peaks Island Ferry (see Ferry schedule) and Lobster Bake Dinner, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.				
Check your entrée choice				
Lobster	Steak	Chicken	Vegetarian	
_____	_____	_____	_____	NUMBER _____ @ \$60 per person
				\$ _____
<b>Extra lobster with any entrée is \$10. each</b>				NUMBER _____ @ \$10 per lobster
				\$ _____

**Saturday, October 4, 2014**  
 TOUR Buses are reserved for each tour. Cancelled tours due to lack of participation will either be refunded or we will try to accommodate the participants in the remaining tour.

Foliage Tour to Conway, NH 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch on your own in Conway				
	NUMBER _____ @ \$30 per person	\$ _____		
Can add Valley Train ride with lunch	NUMBER _____ @ \$50 per person	\$ _____		
Freeport, ME and Delorme Map Store (EARTHA). 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch on your own in Freeport				
	NUMBER _____ @\$25 per person	\$ _____		
Gala Banquet in the Grand Ballroom at the hotel, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.				
Check your entrée choice				
Salmon	Steak	Chicken	Vegetarian	
_____	_____	_____	_____	NUMBER _____ @ \$60 per person
				\$ _____

<b>TOTAL (Registration, Tours and Banquet)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
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Questions? [WRD.Reunion.2014@gmail.com](mailto:WRD.Reunion.2014@gmail.com) or Derrill Cowing 207/242-0826 (cell)

**SEVENTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION**  
**Portland, Maine**  
**Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> through Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**AGENDA**

**Thursday, October 2, 2014**

Reunion Check-in -- 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Official hotel room check-in time is 3:00 p.m.)

Informal Reunion kickoff-gathering -- 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Information Technology (IT) Meeting -- 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Friday, October 3, 2014**

Pre-Business Meeting Breakfast -- 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Business Meeting -- 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (All attendees are invited to participate in the business meeting)

Lunch and an early afternoon on your own in Portland downtown and "Old Port" areas.

Optional Activity: Peaks Island Ferry and Lobster Bake Dinner -- 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday, October 4, 2014**

Optional Foliage Tour to Conway, NH -- 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Optional Tour to Freeport, ME, and the Delorme Map Store -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gala Banquet -- 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 5, 2014**

Specific information regarding post-reunion activities is referenced on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

**For more information contact: Derrill Cowing** [djcowing@aol.com](mailto:djcowing@aol.com)

**NOTE:** Reunion details can be found in the February newsletter (NL162, pages 6-8).



## **Secretary Jewell Announces a Youth Initiative**

On March 20, 2014, Secretary Jewell signed a Secretarial Order that announced a “Youth Initiative” connecting millions of young people to America’s great outdoors. The order will significantly expand recreational, educational, volunteer and career opportunities for millions of youth and veterans on the nation’s public land, including partnerships with businesses and youth organizations to support the Obama Administration’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps (21CS). The order formalizes the goals of the youth initiative the Secretary first outlined at a National Press Club speech on October 13, 2013, and sets forth specific benchmarks for increasing Interior’s engagement with the next generation, empowers bureaus and offices to lead and implement a comprehensive strategy for meeting the goals and outlines the accountability structure and implementation framework to achieve these goals. For more, see <http://www.doi.gov/youth>.

If an analogy were to be made, we as retirees have supported those goals identified in initiative. In the May 2006 Newsletter, the membership of WRD Retirees showed overwhelming support for the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship program with 96% of the voting members in favor. Hydrologic Technicians enjoy a well-deserved reputation of delivering high-quality data products that meet local, state, and National needs. Praise for these employees comes from groups both internal and external to the USGS. These folks are often referred to as the “backbone” of the water program. To honor these fine individuals, the “WRD Retirees Scholarship for Hydrologic Technicians” committee has awarded every year since 2006 (except for 2013 due to the sequestration) scholarship assistance to continue their academic studies.

A copy of the press release announcing this Secretarial Order can be found in this issue’s supplemental, on the WRD Retirees’ website (<http://wrdretirees.org/newsletter.htm>) by clicking on May – 2014 (S) and scrolling to pages 3 and 4.

## **Dr. Matthew C. Larsen Retires from the USGS -- Becomes Director, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute**

On May 2, 2014 Dr. Matthew C. Larsen who served as USGS Associate Director for Climate & Land Use Change retired from the USGS. After 30 years with the Survey, Matt will become the Director, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), in Panama.

Matt tells us that effective May 3, 2014 Dr. Sarah Ryker is the USGS Acting Associate Director, Climate & Land Use Change. You can contact her at [sryker@usgs.gov](mailto:sryker@usgs.gov). He says, “I start with the Smithsonian (SI) in DC on June 16, 2014, and I’ll start in Panama on or before Aug 11, 2014. I’ll be back in DC on a regular basis after relocating to Panamá. As Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Director, I have a DC office next door to the castle on the National Mall. It’s in the SI International Office, in the Ripley Center. You enter it via a small pagoda located just to the west of the castle. Thanks and stay in touch! –Matt”

### **About STRI -- <http://www.stri.si.edu/>**

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institution (STRI) in Panama, is a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution based outside of the United States, is dedicated to understanding biological diversity. What began in 1923 as small field station on Barro Colorado Island, in the Panama Canal Zone, has developed into one of the leading research institutions of the world. STRI’s facilities provide a unique opportunity for long-term ecological studies in the tropics, and are used extensively by some 900 visiting scientists from academic and research institutions in the United States and around the world every year. The work of our resident scientists has allowed us to better understand tropical habitats and has trained hundreds of tropical biologists.

We wish Dr. Larsen the very best of success in his new position. He may be reached at his Smithsonian email at [larsenmc@si.edu](mailto:larsenmc@si.edu).



## RETIREMENTS



**David McCulloch** retired on February 28, 2014, after nearly 25 years of service. David started his USGS career in Tallahassee in 1989 as GIS Coordinator for the Florida District. From 1994 to 2003, he worked as the GIS Specialist in the Tampa Office for the South Florida NAWQA. In 2004, he moved to the CAPP in Madison, WI, eventually becoming Chief of the Cartography and Publishing Program. He oversaw the successful phase-out of CAPP and transition of its staff to SPN, Wisconsin WSC, and other assignments. In 2008, the native of Florida left the cold climes of Wisconsin for the heat of Reston to become Chief of the Applications Unit in the Office of Water Information. Beginning in 2005 and continuing through the remainder of his time at USGS, David served as a key member of the Annual Data Report team, helping to develop and support the Site Data Sheets and related processes. David provided oversight and stewardship of the library of roughly 150,000 SDS's produced during that phase of the ADR production. In particular, he developed the ADR Mapper interface, which led the way for development of the NWIS Mapper. The NWIS Mapper provided a new level of service for distribution of NWIS data and has served as a sustainable model for similar mapping applications in USGS. David's leadership and contributions to GIS applications and standards in OWI, Water, and USGS will be particularly missed. Following retirement, David, Izumi, and their three sons will be moving to Japan to be closer to his wife's family. David plans to continue working actively for a while with ESRI in Japan, so we can probably look forward to seeing his name on some innovative future GIS applications.

-- Submitted by Gary T. Fisher, P.E., Hydrologist Emeritus, Baltimore, MD



**Frančeska Wilde** officially retired from the USGS in January 2013, and was rehired for a part-time tour of duty in the Office of Water Quality (OWQ). She is now re-retiring from USGS. Frančeska is, perhaps, most recognized for her work to develop and subsequently manage the *National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data* (NFM), a task that she took on soon after joining the OWQ in 1991. During her nearly 15 years in OWQ, she was engaged in a variety of other duties and projects. Those that stand out most to her include: developing groundwater training for the water-quality field course and as well as online training in water-quality principles; teaching sampling methods in Abu Dhabi in 2002, publishing a focused protocol for oil-spill sampling related to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, convening a multi-agency conference on Confined Animal Feeding Operations, representing the USGS and OWQ in work sessions with Environment Canada and in forums and committees with other agencies (such as USEPA), active participation in methods-and standards-development organizations (such as ASTM and INELA), and giving presentations of scientific findings and overview of OWQ activities at technical conferences. She is lead author on over 20 professional reports and papers. In 1979, while completing undergraduate work in geology and philosophy at the University of the City of New York, (Hunter College, City College), Frančeska worked as a teaching assistant to Dr. Lehn Franke of the USGS. This led to an opportunity for work as a student assistant in the Syosset, Long Island office of the USGS, logging well-drilling operations, identifying rock-fragment mineralogy, and mapping the extent and stratigraphy of aquifer systems. In 1980 she moved to the Maryland office where, among other duties, she first worked as a hydrologic technician compiling water-use data for the Regional Aquifer Studies Assessment (RASA) program. She subsequently headed a project to assess acid mine drainage from coal-mining operations in Maryland streams and afterwards was project chief of a 5-year study to determine the effects of storm-water infiltration on groundwater quality. During this time, she was enrolled in graduate studies in aqueous geochemistry at Johns Hopkins and George Washington universities. Turning to the present and future, Frančeska sees her primary challenge as organizing time among an intertwined variety of personal priorities and interests: Caring for family, friends, and church; volunteering to improve the quality of lives not our own; improving her facility at playing the cello, at sailing, and at speaking other languages (currently German); reading *all* the world's great novels, poetry, and biographies; and a daily walk and talk with nature. Throughout her USGS years, Frančeska often was queried about being employed by the USGS. Her response remains the same now as in the beginning: "As a geology major, I

## RETIREMENTS

gladly would have given my eye teeth for the opportunity and privilege of working for the USGS. After almost 35 years (and an eye tooth or two fewer) I remain grateful, proud, and still awed by the privilege of being a USGS employee and of having been afforded the honor of working with and tutored by USGS top-notch scientists, administrators, and staff."

-- Donna N. Myers, Chief, Office of Water Quality, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA

**John Zogorski** is retiring on May 2, 2014 after more than 32 years of service to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). John has made many outstanding contributions to the assessment of the quality of the Nation's waters during his career at the USGS. He began his career with the USGS in 1965 with the NJ Water Science Center as an Engineer Trainee and COOP student from Drexel University. Later, John served as a Hydrologist in 1969 during the time he was a graduate student at Rutgers University, culminating in his earning a PhD in Environmental Sciences with emphasis on aquatic chemistry. During the next two decades, John worked intermittently for the USGS in New Jersey, Kentucky, Indiana, and South Dakota. After serving as a Professor and Head of Civil Engineering at South Dakota School of Mines, John returned to the USGS in a full time position in 1992 in the Rapid City, South Dakota Office.

During these three decades John has made fundamental contributions to the science of hydrology through his research on the removal of phenols from drinking water by granular activated carbon, impacts of urban storm-water runoff, coal-mine drainage, the effects of surface water and ground water interactions on drinking water supplies; and the assessment of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the Nation's aquifers and streams as part of the National Water-Quality Assessment Program. The more than 75 reports prepared by the team are used extensively by Federal, State, and local agencies concerned with the protection of drinking water supplies. Of special note is his contribution to the understanding of the occurrence and fate of MTBE in groundwater that led to the regulation of MTBE as a fuel oxygenate. John designed the Water Quality Field Techniques Course, which continues to serve as the national standard for how water quality samples are collected and processed. Since 2010, John has served as the Chief of the National Water Quality Laboratory, the Bureau's premier facility for water quality methods research, development, and sample analysis.

John's career has been typified by dedicated service to the USGS and his leadership resulted in his receiving a Meritorious Service Award in 2000 and a Distinguished Service Award in 2007. The outstanding quality of John's work has earned him the respect of his colleagues and reflects his dedication to the goals of the USGS and the Department of the Interior.

Donna Myers congratulates John on his successful career and wishes him all the best in his retirement.

-- Donna N. Myers, Chief, Office of Water Quality, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA

### May 2014 Newsletter Supplement, NL 163S

This month's Newsletter Supplement consists of several interesting articles. We have reprinted the late Bob Brennan's World War II Memories that was originally published in May 2005, Newsletter 127. The Press Release on Interior's Youth Initiative is next. We also have some tributes to Sandy Turner whose entire career with USGS was in Colorado, the WRD District and the NWQ Laboratory, and who passed away in January 2014.

For the May 2014 Supplement, go online to <http://www.wrdretirees.org/newsletter.htm> and click on the appropriate link. If you receive your Newsletter electronically, we are now adding the Supplement directly to the electronic file. Thus you will get both documents in one email.

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Bob Adsit, along with Virginia**, sent in his dues, saying “Thanks for the heads-up on dues. I’m poor at keeping track. Here’s three years’ worth!”

**Ann Ardis** writes to us, “Please find my membership for 2013 and 2014. Hope this note finds you well. I took the VSIP/VERA early out in 2012 and have been enjoying spending a lot more time with **Bill** (my best friend and husband). He is a general contractor and has recently been involved in several jobs at the Macdonald Observatory in West Texas (Fort Davis). I have tagged along a couple of times – what a beautiful part of the State. We have also made it to Big Bend National Park after working at the Observatory. I can’t wait to go back to Big Bend. My oldest daughter, Sarah, who was only a few months old when I started with the USGS (at the downtown Fed Center), is going to be 30 in March! She has travelled the world (China, Australia, South Africa, Hawaii, South America, etc.) and loves her job with American Express. I am happy for her. I loved my job the 28 years I was with the Survey. God bless.”

**Ted Arnow** wrote to **Tim Smith** from Salt Lake City, “First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the WRD Retirees. I wish you the very best of good luck for keeping things going well in the coming year. I look forward to reading the Newsletter every quarter, both to keep up with my fellow retirees and the latest in water-resources events. On page 12 of the February Newsletter I saw a reference to a Supplement that I have not received, and based on past experience, will not receive. Is there any way I can get a copy of that Supplement? Again, I wish you the best of luck.” **Editor’s note: We do not send the Supplement by hardcopy; however, we are discussing this with Ted.**

**Ann Beam** writes, “I’m still enjoying a busy life at Springmoor Retirement Community. I am glad to see some warmer weather arriving and I’ll be going to Topsail Beach with my daughter and her family. I enjoy fishing in their boat. I am enclosing a check to catch up on my dues.”

**Don Beck** writes, “Sorry for being so late with my payment. This will be the last year that I subscribe as the names and faces that I know or knew are getting fewer and fewer. Good Luck on a fine paper and keep up the good work. Don Beck, retired in 1986.”

**Tony and Arlene Buono** give us an update, “Hey, Bill, Sorry this is late. This check will cover two years. All is well. Arlene and I are still busy selling real estate here in the Melbourne area. We had a pretty busy year in 2013 and we kind of expect 2014 to be busy as well (especially due to another cold winter up north). Meanwhile, we’ve been enjoying our balmy Florida weather. We’re still getting away when we can in the motor home, as well as a periodic dive trip. We hit the Cayman Islands this past May and it was good enough that we will dive another of the islands this April. I’ve continued to taper away from old cars. I sold off one more Porsche last year, so I’m down to one. I kept the ’67 911 Targa, which now sports a beefier motor. All our best.”

**Fern Burmeister** writes to us for her husband, **Ivan**: “Enclosed is an amount for the WRD Newsletter. Please discontinue sending it by email. Can you send hard copy by mail because Ivan does not use the computer at this time? Thank you. Please send it to our Directory address.”

**E.A. Charbonneau** writes to Andy Anderson, “Here is my check for dues through 2014 as well as a contribution.”

**Denny and Dorothy Cline** of Puyallup, WA write, “We didn’t go traveling in the southwest part of our country this winter because of the poor health of my wife, **Dorothy**. Our oldest daughter’s family lives in Cannon Beach, OR, and we made several trips there. We did go last June to Palo Alto, CA, to see their oldest son graduate from Stanford Law School. He is now doing environmental work with a law firm in San Francisco. Come this June all 5 of their kids will have graduated from college, the last being the twins – a boy and a girl. We hope to have a family get-together at Discovery Bay, WA, in August to celebrate our upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in September. Thankfully, at 85 years old, I’m still in pretty good health.”

**Harlan Counts** says, “WRD Retirees, check enclosed for 2013 through 2016 and a contribution. Keep up the good work. My wife, **Margaret**, passed away April 25, 2013.” **Editor’s note: An In Memoriam for Margaret Counts will be published in the August 2014 Newsletter.**

**Terry and Nina Danielson** write, “Enclosed are our dues for 2014 plus a contribution. Thank you to all of you for your dedication. Only news from our house is that we lost our cat, Miboy, after 15 years. We were very sad and depressed, and I vowed there would be no more pets. Well, in December we got two kittens from the shelter. They are only about four months old as of March. They are sweet as a bug in a rug. We are both okay. Thanks to everyone.”

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Pat Glancy** says, "National Officers and WRD Newsletter Staff: Enclosed are my 2014 and 2015 dues. Remainder is for miscellaneous needs. Thanks for keeping us apprised of the lives of our many WRD friends. Sincerely, Pat in Carson City, Nevada."

**Ed Gutentag** writes from Louisiana, "Charles, I remember you from my Lakewood days working with **Jack Weeks**, and **Dick Luckey** on the HPRASA. Well Charles, I had to move from Lakewood, at 6000 ft to Basile, LA at 50 ft because of COPD, which started at 80 due to smoking in my youth. Charles, last summer my wife **Anna Belle** and I spent the month of June in Louisiana, then visited my ailing big brother in Ft. Myers, Florida. I really liked it down there, but the day that we were to leave for home my 95-year-old sister-in-law went to the hospital, with a UTI (urinary tract infection) and other minor problems, so we went to Florida, but returned to Louisiana, instead of Denver. But my old sister-in-law had taken a turn for the worse, but a doctor gave her great care and reversed a terminal situation. A week later she was off to rehab. We decided to stay until she was almost out of rehab. In late September, it was decided to let her go home in late October. Then we started to fly home. In Lafayette, LA, blood oxygen was 99%; we changed planes in Dallas and blood oxygen was 94%; and it was 90% when we arrived at DIA in Denver. The next week I could barely get around. We went to my doctor at St. Anthony Senior Health, who said to my wife, "If he was so much more normal than here, you folks better move south." With the help of our son and family, we moved down here. We got rid of books and furniture not needed, then packed the rest in a pod, and moved here. Our son drove our car, and flew home. We live in the Ashford family homestead with 2 bars on the Cell Phone, twisted-wire landline installed in 1946, two dishes for Direct TV, and a Hughes Wi-Fi. We are located in rural Evangeline Parish, with three generations of nieces and nephews. I, originally from NYC, am actually learning to live out here. I make sure our nephew's cattle have drinking water, and the electric fence is working. In Eunice the only store with merchandise is Walmart. If they do not have it, we buy it on-line. Many mosquitoes but thank God for Deet. Great area to grow things -- soft water and reasonable costs. As they say in Cajun this is *Dieu Pays* (God's Country)."

**Patricia Hamel** writes to **Bill Boning**, "Please catch up my dues through 2015. The remaining amount is for the Retirees Fund. Thank you."

**Scott Hamlin** writes, "Happy New Year, **Bill**! Sorry for the delay. We had to euthanize our little girl doggie on December 31<sup>st</sup> and we are still grieving. Kind of put our lives on hold, but we are doing better now and looking for a replacement -- another Lhasa Apso. The best to you and yours -- Aloha."

**Arthur Horowitz** says, "Maybe I'm an optimist. Enclosed please find a check for the next 5 years of dues."

**Leo House** writes, "**Bill**, I'm running a bit behind this year ... Hope you had a splendid Holiday Season! Here are dues for WRD Retirees, in arrears and in advance... Cheers."

**Carol G. Hoy** says, "Here are my dues for 2014 and 2015. Thanks."

**Cora Jean and Jerry Leenheer** say, "Sorry this [check] is so late -- this is to put us two years ahead!"

**Mary R. Lowry** writes to us, "Gentlemen: Since I am now 101, I don't recognize many who are mentioned in the WRD Retirees Newsletter but I still enjoy reading it. The only two I knew were **Wayne Webb** and **Mrs. Leslie Lenfest** under Directory changes. I am doing quite well and still get around without a cane." *Editor's note: Mary's cursive handwriting is beautiful!*

**Frank Manheim** sent us a nice note, "Greetings. I am way behind in submitting material for the Newsletter, but here's a start. Since retirement I have been working as an affiliate professor at the School of Public Policy, George Mason University, Arlington, VA. I published a book in 2009 on our longstanding conflict between environmentalists and industry, and am getting ready to submit a proposal for a new one. In the near future I'll submit reports and presentations I have published. Now, on the off chance that you might be interested, in the book referred to, **Frank T. Manheim**, *THE CONFLICT OVER ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION IN THE UNITED STATES; ORIGINS, OUTCOMES, AND COMPARISONS WITH THE EU*, 321 p., Springer, 2009, I have a 13-page policy history of USGS. It provides a case example of the history of a federal science agency. Would you be interested in presenting it serially in the Newsletter? Regards." *Editor's note: We are interested in publishing Frank's document and are working out the details.*

**Jayne May** writes, "I've really been taking it easy since retirement until last summer (2013). I went back to my home town in Indiana for the whole summer to do extensive work on the family genealogy, meet up with relatives and old friends in the area. I was able to expand our tree significantly to include generations of ancestors and descendants of my aunts, uncles, cousins, their spouses and siblings. I'll be working for a year or two getting all the data and pictures entered into my local and [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) trees and cemetery data into [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com). My cousin and I walked through 50 or so

## NEWS OF RETIREES

cemeteries finding family graves dating back to the late 1770s. Even in retirement I enjoy analyzing data to fit the puzzle pieces together! I'm converting my old home church's haphazard paper "records" to a usable computerized searchable database. While my beagles and I were in Indiana, my home in Pflugerville was totally refurbished - new floors, blinds, doors, fence, crown molding, and paint throughout plus new living room furniture. I just couldn't bring back the ratty old couch and recliner I took with me to Indiana back to my new digs! I am fortunate to have a great friend who oversaw all the work being done. I've been here for 15 years now and plan to stay until they take me out feet first! I am still involved with Hound Rescue of Austin, loving every minute of it. I currently have four senior beagles aged 9 to 14 and three are rescues. I enjoy riding my recumbent trike all around the subdivision. Low to the ground and three wheels take care of my bad knees and balance issues. I also enjoy baking, reading and working jigsaw puzzles! I'm sure I owe dues but have no clue as to how much. Just let me know. Thanks."

**Linda (Britton) McMullen** of Boulder writes, "I just wanted to say how much I enjoy reading about the lives of my colleagues in the Newsletter. Thanks and gratitude to all who make the Newsletter so successful. Since I retired in 2005, I have remarried and live in Boulder, CO. My husband Patrick and I would love to have visitors at our home in Boulder or our vacation home in Brookings, Oregon. Keep up the good work."

**Charles Nethaway**, our editor, writes, "I have really been blessed over the past six months by lots of people who have driven me to as many as five medical appointments per week. In addition to church friends, USGS friends **Celso Puente**, **Andy Anderson**, **Dotty Woods**, and **Sharon Williams** took me to many appointments. Thank you – thank you!"

**Gary Paulachok** tells us, "Friends, I have fallen behind on my dues – hopefully the enclosed payment will bring me up to date. Keep up the outstanding work. Gary Paulachok (ret. 12/2011)"

**Ferdinand Quinones** of Brentwood, TN, thanks us for the Newsletter and says, "I often read the Newsletter with nostalgia on the news of the 'Class of 1968' when I joined the USGS in Puerto Rico. The memorials of my colleagues and friends are frequent, as expected in this lapse of time of my generation. But life is good, and I treasure every moment I spent in the USGS and the many great people I met and the experiences I shared in the organization. Best regards to all."

**Walt Rennick** says, "Attached check is for membership dues for years 2014 and 2015. Thanks."

**Bill Shampine** wrote, "**Bill [Boning]**, here is my check to cover three years of dues. Thank you for all your efforts. You and the other folks do a great job, and I appreciate it."

**Janet Thomas** sent us her membership dues along with her Directory information.

**Bert Thomsen** says, "Sorry for being old and slow, but enjoy hearing about others: here are my dues for three years and some extra 'help.'"

**David Webster** writes, "WRD Retirees – Enclosed please find a check for my dues for 2014."

**C. T. Welborn** reports on his health, "After 6 weeks and 4 days in hospitals, I returned home a week ago. I still am somewhat weak in my legs, but I am working every day on them. I feel good and I'm ready to get back to my routine. I spent the weekend at Port Aransas with Frances and Beverly, two of my daughters. The weather wasn't too good but I enjoyed it anyway. I hope to get back on the Texas Newsletter soon. Our next meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. at Big Daddy's on 183-North on the third Wednesday in April."

**Barbara Werho** sent in her dues for 2013 and 2014 with a "Thanx."

**Roger White** writes, "I sincerely apologize for being so late sending in my dues. The email address you have on record for me is one I stopped using over a year ago and I apparently neglected to notify you. I happened to login to the account recently and noticed your email. I am enclosing a check for dues through 2015 and some extra for general use. My new email address is attached. Thanks so much for all the hard work."



## MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

### VIRGINIA – RETRIEES' LUNCHEON

Amphora Deluxe

April 7, 2014



**L to R:** Tim Smith, Bill Mann, Mary Watts (hostess), Alan Lumb, Norm Hutchison, and (facing away from the camera) Celso Puente

### OHIO'S SEMI-ANNUAL LUNCHEON

April 8, 2014



**Attending:** Janet Welday, Merle and Max Katzenbach, Dean MacFadden, Alan Sedam, Cindy and Jim Mangus, Dick Swisshelm, and Steve and Sandy Hindall. (Sandy Beck not pictured) The newly retired Jim Mangus accepted to be our new contact for Ohio retirees replacing Steve Hindall. We plan to meet again in October.

### USGS RETIREES AND SPOUSES SPRING LUNCHEON

May 1, 2014, Raleigh, NC



**Front Row (L to R):** Gary Garrett, Nancy Garrett, Mary Meikle, Myra Daniel, Carol Winner, Charlotte Lloyd, Nancy Coble, Mickey Reid  
**Back Row (L to R):** Charles Daniel, Becky Deckard, Bob Meikle, Mike Winner, Bruce Lloyd, Ron Coble, Ann Beam



## MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

### TEXAS WRD RETIREES NEWSLETTER and TEXAS MEETING April 16, 2014

Our second Texas WRD Retirees Meeting was held at Big Daddy's Bar & Grill and 6 of us were present. Those attending were: **Bob Burchett**, **Paul Rohne** and his friend **Rita**, **Jack** and **Velma Rawson**, and **Clarence Welborn**. Bob Burchett opened the meeting by wishing everyone a good after noon. He said we had a large crowd (sarcasm). As you can see we had only 6 people. Bob said that although Libby had passed on, she was here in spirit. Bob said that in a few days he will send invitations to all for a celebration of Libby's Life at his home on May10, 2014. Bob said that he was glad to see the people here and looking forward to seeing them at our next meeting at the Big Daddy's on the third Wednesday in July.

Paul said that he hadn't done much, except enjoying his new home. Rita has sold her home and will be moving.

Jack said that it has been a while since they have been to a meeting. After the meeting in April last year, they followed his son by car, on a bike tour to Phoenix. Since then his son has biked from Phoenix to San Diego. At the present he is on a trip from San Francisco to Tijuana. His goal now is to circumnavigate the United States. Going by bicycle you see a lot of the country. He has a web site called Crazy guy with a bike. He has a lot of pictures.

Jack had a knee replacement in October and he was allergic to the pain medicine and it caused him five days later to have another surgery. This time on his urinary tract. He has been hobbling around since then but is on his way to recovery. He and Velma celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary back in February. Jack gave her a Caribbean cruise on the Royal Caribbean cruise line out of Galveston. Other than that they have been staying pretty close to home taking care of the grandsons.

CT said that he had been home over 2 months since his 6 week stay in the hospital and rehab. He hasn't been doing much except working to get his strength back. He has planned a Caribbean cruise in October and a trip to Yellowstone in September. He doesn't think he will go to Maine.

*Texas Newsletter Editor, CT Welborn*

### NEWS OF RETIREES -- Continued

**Betty Scribner**, now living in Ozark, Missouri, says, "Hello I am sad to tell you that my mother passed away over Christmas time. I just got back to my home and am back to thinking with the world, sending in dues, and all those sorts of things. I have moved to Ozark, just up the road from Branson, Missouri, and also close to the famous Lambert's "Home of the Throwed Rolls." I'm giving you my new address and email for the 2014 Directory. My age hasn't changed but my weight has, just from eating out for so many months while I get settled. I will miss Lawrence, KS, and especially seeing my USGS retired friends as well as joining in with the many federal employees of the NARFE group.

**Jack and Judy Weeks** report, "We spent the month of March in Australia touring and visiting friends and relatives. You may have heard about the Qantas planes that bumped wings on the tarmac in LAX on February 27. One of those planes was being moved to the gate to load us for the trip to Melbourne. Needless to say, our flight was cancelled. They got us on a plane to Sydney and after a layover there we caught a domestic flight to Melbourne which turned the 14-hour trip into 20 hours. We made it a little late, although our luggage didn't show up till the next day. While in Australia, we visited Melbourne, Adelaide, and the Gold Coast in Queensland and northern New South Wales. **Judy** is Australian and we had not visited her relatives since 2009, everyone was glad to see us. The highlight of our trip was a drive along the Great Ocean Road which was built following WWI to rehabilitate and provide work for returning service men. They built a road along the south coast of Australia between Geelong and Warrnambool, a distance of 170 miles. Much of the two lane road hangs spectacularly along the limestone cliffs and shoreline, much like Highway 1 in California. Now there are many resort communities along the track which are very popular and crowded during summer. The coastline is very rugged and in a stretch of water known as the shipwreck coast, the limestone has been eroded by relentless waves leaving pillars of rock standing alone in the sea, monuments to the power of the ocean. The area is now Twelve Apostles National Park. We spent one night at Port Campbell near Twelve Apostle so that we could view the area in the evening as well as the morning light. It is even more impressive than the pictures you may have seen. If you're going to Australia, put this on your bucket list!! We are excited about the WRD Retirees meeting in Portland, ME, and we are looking forward to catching up with all our friends from USGS. See you there!!"

## RETIREES IN ACTION

**Ferdinand Quiñones, PE, Hydrologist**  
**PO Box 3387, Brentwood, TN 37024**  
[fquinon@msn.com](mailto:fquinon@msn.com)

A short four months after retiring in 1994, I began work as a consultant. In September of 1994, I received a phone call from Dr. Antonio Santiago, my second mentor outside the USGS (my great third mentor was Jim Cook), who had been my professor of hydraulics at the engineering school in Puerto Rico and a friend while I was in the USGS in the island. Casually, while a trainee with Vito Latkovich in the USGS 3-year training program for new hydrologists, I had co-authored a paper with Dr. Santiago Vázquez in the engineers bulleting proposing a 50-mile aqueduct from the north-central coast to San Juan, to improve the water supplies of the island. Dr. Santiago Vázquez was now a partner in an engineering firm (CSA Architects and Engineers) that had just received the contract to design and supervise the construction of the aqueduct, with a \$650 million budget. He asked me to join the firm as a junior partner or a consultant to manage the Environmental Division, preparing the EIS for the now North Coast Aqueduct project for the next several years. (After consulting with the boss (wife), we decided to set a second house in PR and commute every 2-3 weeks between both places, but working as a full-time consultant for CSA). Our two sons were on their own, one as a school teacher in Nashville, while my younger son was entering the PhD program in Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas (now also a patents lawyer). And so we began a 10-year commute between Nashville and San Juan, and I enjoyed the experience of working on not only the aqueduct project, but on landfills, highways, sub-divisions, bridges, hotels, channeling of streams, rehabilitation of wetlands, ground water models, sedimentation of reservoirs, rainfall-runoff models, and every aspect of hydrology that we touch so much in the USGS. In between, I began to write and publish tens of papers on many aspects of the projects I directed, planned or executed.

Our older son and his wife were expecting child, so we ceased the commute and I resigned from the full-time assignment and became a part-time consultant travelling mostly by myself to Puerto Rico every 4-6 weeks for a few days. In 2003, the office of the Governor requested my services full time to prepare the first draft of the Integral Plan for the Water Resources Management of Puerto Rico. In 2005 we delivered the draft of the Water Plan, and also some 15 papers and publications in support of the plan, addressing every aspect of the water resources of PR. These reports and papers were integrated into an “atlas” type report titled “Inventory of the Water Resources of PR”, published in the page of the Department of Natural Resources and linked in mine.

After the Water Plan for PR I decided to reduce my workload to spend more time with my family, golfing and finish writing a book about the water resources of PR. I had begun working chapters of the book just before entering into the work of the Water Plan. The Water Plan consolidated many of the elements that I needed to advance the book with the goal of publishing in 2012. From the start my goal was to prepare an educational non-profit book to fund a scholarship in hydrology from the potential sales. The PR government authorized the use of the papers and information we had compiled for the Water Plan, and I completed about half of the chapters by mid 2012.

And then, one night I woke-up with the conscience that the media had changed, and in the non-distant future, most of the publications, particularly technical, would be electronic. And the quickest media for publishing not only my work, but a kind of encyclopedia of the water resources of PR, was a web page, a portal. I began to look into means to develop a web page and contacted several firms to help with the design and eventual publishing. This was partly frustrating because my vision of what the portal should be was different from theirs. I learned quickly that the term “monetize” is a key word in the jargon of these folks. I wanted my page to be educational, relatively simple within the complexities of the hydrology of PR, and free of charge (this partially killed the idea of the scholarship, but not yet, since I have a second solution). Finally I gave-up with the web developers and went to a 3-day course at Atlanta on techniques for the design, development and maintenance of web pages. At the end of November of 2012, I published the page in the web, with perhaps 20 sub-pages and many more with the sign “under construction”. I think I probably spent close to 500 hours in the task in 2012, and another 1,500 in 2013 to bring it to what is essentially now, which includes about 110 sub-pages and close to 50 links to other pages with information pertinent to the water resources and climate of PR.

In completing many sections of the page I am indebted to the staff of the USGS in PR, which have been generous in supplying data and information not readily available in the web. Two special contributions from the USGS are copies of the topo and geologic quads of PR, which I have set in a file within the data base of Dropbox and can be downloaded easily. There is of course a link from my page to the Caribbean Water Science Center.

I invite you to visit the website at: <http://www.rekursosaguapuertorico.com/>

## RETIREES IN ACTION

In 2013, nearly 70,000 folks visited the page, and the current trend indicates probably exceeding 100,000 in 2014. The maintenance of a technical web page as this is a constant never-ending task, not only to add new information, but to respond to multiple requests every week from students, researchers and teachers not only from PR, but from many Hispanic countries and certainly from bilingual students in the US. The page has provided ideas to several dozens of students in developing projects for their master's thesis, and in two weeks I am meeting with a couple of PhD students interested in topics for their dissertation from chapters in the page describing the hydrology of the southwestern valleys.

The page also includes a blog about the water resources of PR, which I publish every 6 months with an update of the rainfall, runoff, reservoirs, aquifers, and water quality in PR. The blog is mailed to about 850 people in my mailing list. There is also a link to a publication on the water resources of PR (named "Cartilla del Agua de PR"), composed in a quasi non-technical language designed for high school students that I helped to write with the director of the International Institute of Tropical Forests (USFS), and free to access.

When you link to the page, the entry title page opens (see next figure, although you will get better resolution and the bottom "legal" comments from the web), with two main menus on the left and the right. The left menus are links to sub-pages on the different topics of the hydrology of PR. I have tried to include every element of the water cycle of the island and special writings on unique areas of interest (such as the hydrology of the El Yunque Rain Forest). I send every section drafted to a couple of friends also retired that review them to ascertain its best correctness. As I stated before, it is a continuing process, and every week I make a couple of notes of new topics that I must add in the near future.

The menu on the right are links to entities or other web pages in PR and USA that provide information about the water resources of the island, or related sciences, such as FEMA maps; soils from NRCS; wetlands from USFWS; and of course water data from USGS in PR. The page "sitemap" is a detailed index of the topics included, with links from the sitemap index to the particular topic of interest. The latest gigs I have added are GIF's (pictures with motion) of waterfalls and reservoirs (I am finishing an inventory of the water falls in the island with links to videos and pictures, since there is none in PR as of now).

I mentioned that my idea of raising some money from this effort for a scholarship to a young Puerto Rican to go to grad school to study hydrology is still alive (the reason for this is that at a recent meeting of the most experienced hydrologists in PR, the average age was close to 67, with a great vacuum behind us, and very few entering the science and art that hydrology is, and those migrating to the USA). My next goal with a finish time at the end of 2014 is to convert the web page into an eBook, to be published in English and Spanish, and to sell for a modest price in the Apple Store and outside to raise some money. I have been offered the chance to add advertisings to the page and make some money, but I refuse to do that. Many of the companies in the engineering business that I know would certainly provide funds for such a program, but I am still a consultant of the PR Water Resources Authority (PRASA), and these friends are also consultants to PRASA, thus there would be an ethical issue, and that option is out for now.

I also linked my page through Flipboard, available on iPhones and iPads (if you use these devices and do not have Flipboard, you are missing the best integrator of news every type, and free). In Flipboard you can create magazines that you "curate" by "flipping" news of your topic of interest from other publications that have agreements with Flipboard (dealing with copyrights issues). I "curate" four magazines in Flipboard (Water in the World; Climate News; Science Teaching; and a new in development about Government News). I also created a magazine called "Water Resources in Puerto Rico", which is a special link to my web page in Spanish. This link makes the topics in my web page accessible by touch from an iPhone or iPad.

I have made this a long story (Jim Cook used to tell me I was a story teller), hoping to provide a background of the whole process conducive to my web page. It has been a long but fruitful and satisfying road. A friend recently asked me (concerned) about what is going to happen to the page once I am not around ( I am now 71, but in good health). I have thought about this destiny we all have, and have made arrangements with my son Edy to keep it going for as long as he can or wishes, with help from one of my disciples that I mentored into hydrology and now teaches at the University of PR.

I thank you for this courtesy, hoping that it will inspire other of our USGS retirees to create similar pages in whichever states they live. I believe that in spite of the availability of the vast library of USGS publications in the national portal, there is a need for focusing the many reports of each state in a media understood by more than hydrologists.

## IN MEMORIAMs



**Elizabeth "Libby" (nee: Holmes McCarty) Burchett:** Libby was born December 27, 1936 in Abingdon, VA. She was raised by her mother, Sallie Holmes, and her father, Dr. William McCarty, in Marion, VA. Libby and her younger brother, Bill, grew up in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains of southwest Virginia. Libby especially enjoyed water and spent many summer days on the beach and in the lake at Hungry Mother State Park. Libby met her husband-to-be, Bob Burchett, in art class her senior year at Marion High School; and, their first date followed graduation on June 2, 1955. Libby and Bob married in the seventh year of their friendship in the seventh month on the seventh day at the seventh hour of 1961. This choice of date and time reflected Libby's delightfully quirky mind and Bob loved it. Libby graduated from Mary Washington College with a BA in Art Education and worked on her masters at East Tennessee State University. Pregnancy occurred before thesis completion. Libby gave birth to two beautiful baby girls, Cynthia Gwyn (1964) and Sallie Elizabeth (1969). Another daughter, Rhonda, became much a part of Bob and Libby's family at age 3. Libby taught school for three years before settling into full time motherhood. Once her girls were older, Libby and a friend in Nashville, TN purchased an art frame shop. Libby was always delighted when art looked better going out the door than coming in. Bob's career was with the U.S. Geological Survey. This provided the couple the opportunity to live in and enjoy many beautiful places including Marion, VA; Nashville, TN; San Antonio, TX; Oklahoma City, OK; Austin, TX and Denver, CO. In each place Bob and delighted in entertaining them in her lovely homes. As well as being a beautiful wife and mother, Libby was an outstanding artist. She was especially accomplished in oil and watercolor. Libby was recognized in many large art shows. Over the past 12 years Libby has enjoyed making stoneware pottery both on the wheel and hand formed pieces. Libby was preceded in death by her mother, father and brother. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Bob, her three daughters and two son-in laws; and, 'Bibby's' much loved eight grandchildren. After a year-long struggle against cancer, Libby passed away at home in Austin the morning of March 21, 2014, surrounded by her family. She will be cremated and her ashes placed in a double urn made by her potter friends. Libby will be waiting for Bob to join her there and in heaven. A Celebration of Libby's life will be held at the Burchett residence Saturday May 10th at 2:00 p.m. Celebrations will also be held in Mt. Juliet, TN for Libby's Nashville friends and Kingsport, TN for her Marion, VA, family and friends. In lieu of flowers, Libby would appreciate donations to the American Cancer Society or to the Blanton Art Museum in Austin, TX.

**Sylvia B Hardt**, 77, of Tucson, AZ, passed away on March 5, 2011. Sylvia was born on July 13, 1933. She was the wife of WRD retiree **William F. "Bill" Hardt** who retired in 1984. Bill worked on the Navajo Project in Arizona in the 1950s, then the Permian Basin Project out of Austin, TX in the 1960s as well as a Gloucester County report out of the New Jersey District. Later Bill served as Chief, Hydrologic Investigations Section, in the California District. Sylvia's funeral services were under the direction of East Lawn Palms Mortuary, Tucson, AZ.



**James Reece "Jim" Harrill**, 75, beloved husband, brother, father and grandfather, ended his life's journey on March 3, 2014, after a long illness. Jim was born on Sept. 29, 1938, in Washington, D.C., to Eugene Reece and Dorothy Sampson Harrill. He grew up in Arlington, Virginia and attended Washington Lee High School, where he competed in track and field. During his senior year, he broke the state record for the high jump during the Northern Virginia Track and Field Championships, then tied for first place in the event a week later at the Virginia State Championships. He was accepted at Johns Hopkins University, and the summer before embarking on his college career he took a summer job with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Spokane, Wash., where he worked first in the Spokane office with the drafting section, then spent the rest of the summer in the mountains south of Salmon, Idaho, helping to survey an iron ore prospect. At Johns Hopkins, Jim majored in geology. He worked for the Bureau of Mines two additional summers. He graduated in June 1960 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in geology and was accepted to graduate school at the University of Utah. The summer before moving to Utah Jim worked at Mt. Rainier National Park for a PhD candidate who was doing his dissertation in the Pinnacle Peak area of the park. As a graduate student in Salt Lake City, Jim met Patsy Priscilla Seely and the two were married on Sept. 1, 1961, in Ely, Nev. He graduated from the University of Utah with a Master of Science in geology in 1962. He served in the Army for two years, receiving an honorable discharge as a 1st Lieutenant in 1964. Jim then joined the USGS in Carson City, NV. His expertise in groundwater grew, and by the time he retired in 1994, he had contributed to numerous studies and authored or co-authored more than 50 technical articles pertaining to the hydrology of the Great Basin. After retirement from the Survey he worked as a consultant for about 15 years - his projects included co-authoring a detailed evaluation of the water resources in Death Valley National Park and participating in a study of Devil's Hole that explained water-level declines that began in 1988. Colleagues continued to draw upon his expertise, calling with questions just a few days before his death. His passions included gardening, woodcarving and spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Patsy S. Harrill; one sister; two sons, Rob Harrill and Scott Harrill; three daughters-in-law; and eight grandchildren, one great-grandson, and numerous other relatives. He was preceded in death by his son, George Reece Harrill. A service to celebrate Jim's life was held on March 15 at FitzHenry's Funeral Home in Carson City. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Jim's name to St. Jude Children's Research Center, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or online at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

## IN MEMORIAMs



**Edna Anne Johnston Lamson**, 90, died March 14, 2014. A native of Buncombe County, North Carolina, Mrs. Lamson was a daughter of the late Murgil Alton Johnston, Sr., and Lillian Anthony Johnston. She was also preceded in death by her husband, WRD Retiree Ralph William Lamson, who died on January 3, 2004. Ralph retired in 1977 when he was the chief of the data section in the Minnesota District. Ralph arrived in the Minnesota Surface Water Branch in 1953, transferring from the South Carolina Surface Water Branch. In Minnesota he was placed in charge of field operations. Mrs. Lamson is survived by one daughter and son-in-law: three sons; six grandchildren; and, five great-grandchildren. Services were held on March 31, at Snow Hill United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Snow Hill United Methodist Church, 84 Snow Hill Church Road, Candler, NC 28715.



**Virginia G. Lenfest**, 91, died peacefully on Dec. 26, 2013, after a short illness. She lived in Ginger Cove, Annapolis, Maryland. Born Dec. 28, 1921, in Wawarsing, NY, Virginia was raised in Ellenville, NY, by her mother, Beatrice Grant, and her aunt, Bernice Gray. Virginia graduated from State Teachers College at New Paltz, NY, in 1943. She taught fourth grade in Katonah, NY, for two years before marrying Leslie W. Lenfest on Aug. 29, 1946. Leslie worked for many years in the Maryland Surface Water Branch, having arrived there from the Ithaca, NY, Surface Water office in 1950. In the 1960s Leslie was the Assistant District Engineer in the MD SWB except for a stint as Acting District Engineer in 1961-1962. When the WRD MD-DE-DC District was established and staffed in 1965, Leslie was named Chief of the Hydrologic Data Section. He retired in 1966. Virginia and Leslie lived in Lewisdale, Md., for many years, where they raised their five children. Virginia substituted in Lewisdale Elementary School, where her children attended. They moved to Lincolnville, Maine, when Leslie retired from the Geological Survey. She and Leslie lived in Lincolnville for 20 years. To be closer to their family they moved back to Maryland in 1993. She and Leslie moved into Ginger Cove in 2005. Virginia enjoyed reading and spending time with her children, grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 59 years. She is survived by three sons; two daughters; five grandchildren; and, three great-grandchildren. A small memorial service will be held at a later date. Final interment will be in Lincolnville. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Ginger Cove Employee Appreciation Fund in memory of Virginia Lenfest, to Ginger Cove, 4000 River Crescent Drive, Annapolis, MD 21401. Memorial tributes may be sent to the Hardesty Funeral Home in Annapolis.

**Donald Oliver "Don" Moore**, 83, passed away on November 10, 2013. He was born on July 18, 1930 in Astoria, Oregon Mr. and Mrs. Ray A. Moore. Don's wife, Vitale Moore, passed away in 2003 (See below). Don retired from WRD in 1985. Donald was the Assistant District Chief of Nevada from 1969-1977 when he was assigned to the Saudi Arabia project. Donald was a member of the Office of International Hydrology which reported directly to the Chief Hydrologist. He was again assigned to the Saudi Arabia program from 1981-1985. Donald also worked as a surface-water specialist on the Western Regional staff from 1981-1983. Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law Jeffrey and Kathy Hawkins and Stephen and Jennifer Hawkins, all of Carson City; daughters and sons-in-law DeeDee and Wally Murray and Ginny and Barry Hensler, all of Carson City; daughter Val Barrick of Mesa, AZ; eight grandchildren; and, three great-grandchildren.

**Vilate Beth Moore**, 70, passed away at home in Carson City, NV on March 23, 2003. Vilate was the wife of WRD retiree Donald O. Moore who recently passed away (See above.) She was born Oct. 17, 1932, in Elko, NV, to Frank R. and Alice V. Hutchinson Salls. She graduated from Elko High School. She married Donald O. Moore in 1981. Mrs. Moore was a bookkeeper for the Elko Free Press from 1960 to 1967. She operated Hesson's Hardware in Elko for 10 years, worked for the state of Nevada Employment Security Department from 1976 to 1981, and was a real estate agent in Carson City from 1987 to 1992. She loved boating and all outdoor activities. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Carson City Third Ward. Burial was at Lone Mountain Cemetery.



**Bryan Scott Peck**, 71, passed away Friday, Feb. 28, 2014, of a heart attack. Born June 17, 1942, in Tulsa, OK, he moved to the Northwest at the age of 12. He married his wife, Candace, on Oct. 4, 1968, in Seattle. Bryan is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 45 years, his beloved daughters, Angela (Nate) Emery of Fredericksburg, VA, and Melanie (Dan) Jimenez of Lewiston, ID; and his son, Scott of Vashon Island, WA. In addition, he is survived by his much loved grandson, Thomas Emery of Lewiston, ID, and his dearly loved grandchildren of Fredericksburg, VA, Asha, Maysoon, Mona, Faisal, Bryan, Danielle, Nawal and Noah. He is also survived by his sister, Daryle Peck, and a brother, Craig Peck. Bryan is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, having served from 1961 to 1967. Following his military service, he had a long career with the U.S. Geological Survey as a hydrologic technician. His work took him throughout the wilderness of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington where he worked outdoors in all weather conditions, one with nature. He was an avid outdoorsman and taught his family his love of nature and adventure. After retiring, he and his wife traveled the back roads of the United States for four years in their fifth-wheel RV and white dually Ford pickup truck, a lifelong dream of his. In 2001, they settled in Lewiston near their daughter, Melanie, and grandson Thomas. Bryan was surrounded by the great love and devotion of family and friends throughout the struggle of his final weeks. A private family memorial will be held at Camp Sherman, OR, in the summer.



## IN MEMORIAMs



**Mary Ann Stewart**, 76, of Carmel, Indiana, passed away on March 2, 2014. Mary Ann was born June 30, 1937 in Langdon, ND to the late David P. and Mary Ann Kartes. Mary Ann was the wife of WRD Retiree Dennis K. Stewart. Dennis was District Chief in Indiana from 1977 until he retired in 1990. Dennis previously worked in the Surface Water Subdistrict office in Grand Forks, ND (1957-1965); Alaska's Anchorage office, 1965-1973; and then the Oregon WRD District as the Assistant District Chief until his assignment in Indiana IN 1977. Mary Ann's joy and purpose was to love and guide her family and friends through her dedication to God, and her optimistic attitude and unselfish heart. She was very active in the Carmel Care Center and Westfield Village, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church and its Women's Club and Newcomers Club, the American Women's Club of Oman, and the Association of International Women. She worked in the office of Nasser, Smith and Pinkerton Cardiologists. A funeral Mass was held on March 7 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Mary Ann is survived by her husband, Dennis K. Stewart; daughter, Amy Denise Stewart; sons, Dean (Cindy) Stewart and David (Dr. Susan Cavins-Stewart) Stewart; four grandchildren and a sister and brother. She was preceded in death by four siblings. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Elizabeth Seton Family Room Fund. Arrangements were entrusted to Flanner and Buchanan of Carmel.

**Marcella Freeman Wark**, 89, of San Tan Valley, Arizona, died on Jan. 16, 2013, in Gilbert, AZ. Mrs. Wark was born on April 24, 1923, in Florence, AZ. Marcella was the wife of the late WRD Retiree **John W. Wark** who retired from the USGS in 1982. At the time of John's retirement, he was Assistant Regional Hydrologist, Western Region. His expertise was in water quality, and he was the first District Chief of the Maryland-Delaware-DC WRD Division-wide District, established in late 1964. Mrs. Wark was a direct descendant of Mayflower Pilgrims. She was a business teacher at Florence High School for five years before marrying John W. Wark and moving to California. She was a member of Order of the Eastern Star and a past grand worthy matron. She is survived by a daughter, and a grandson. She was preceded in death by her husband, two brothers, and two sisters. The memorial service was held in Florence.



**Warren, John Dalton**, 86, of Brandon, FL passed away peacefully on Monday, January 6, 2014. John graduated with a degree in civil engineering from the Citadel, in Charleston, SC. He retired from a long career with the USGS in 1983. John first served in the Arkansas SW Branch in the mid-1940s and continued in Arkansas until he transferred to the SW Branch in Florida, serving as the Engineer-in-Charge at Sebring 1962-1965. He attended the SW Short Course in Salt Lake City in 1959. When Florida operations became a WRD District in 1965, John was transferred to Miami. In Miami, John worked with Charles Appel using a new digitizer to transform graphical data to magnetic tapes for computer processing and was later put in charge of the Data Information Program. John, along with Jim Schneider, was instrumental in the 1980 conversion of deflection vanes to electromagnetic flow meters, a major change in monitoring backwater conditions. John enjoyed an active retired life of helping others and enjoying world travels. He is survived by his wife Millie Warren and three children: John Warren, Jr. (wife Cheri), Mary Warren Carver (husband Dr. Chris Carver) and children Morgan and Christopher Carver), and Marty Warren (wife Joanie) and children Cassandra Warren and Elizabeth Warren. His family and friends celebrated his life at his memorial service that was held at the First United Methodist Church of Brandon on January 18. In lieu of flowers, John would wish that expressions of sympathy be expressed by cash gifts sent to the *Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO) of Brandon*; 507 N Parsons Ave, Brandon, FL 33510.



**Deacon Edwin A. "Ed" Wesolowski**, 75, passed away on March 24, 2014, at St. Vincent's Care Center, Bismarck, North Dakota. Ed was born March 27, 1938, in Grand Forks, the son of Edwin and Catherine (Ebertowski) Wesolowski of Warsaw. Ed spent time on a farm near Warsaw with his maternal grandparents and attended a local country school. His teacher inspired him to continue his education so he and his brother began attending high school in Oslo, MN. After some college at University of North Dakota, Ed served in the Army from 1957-1963 in Heidelberg, Germany and Stateside. In February 1962, he married Joy Korynta of Ardoch. In August 1966, he graduated from UND with a bachelors in natural science and social science, and then studied geology for one year in graduate school. Ed was hired by the USGS in Bismarck as a hydrologist. He worked at the USGS as a water quality specialist until 1975, when he was hired by the Bureau of Reclamation to work on the Garrison Diversion Project. He returned to the USGS in 1981 as a supervisory hydrologist of the N.D. District Basic Data field office. There he worked on interpretive studies and he published several reports. He retired from the USGS in December 2000. He was a member of Flickertail and the Gospel Gabbers Toastmasters and the Knights of Columbus. After three years of formation, Ed was ordained a deacon in 1999 at the Church of St. Leo in Minot. He served as a deacon at the Church of Saint Anne for two years and then was moved to Ascension, where he served until August 2006. For the following two years, he served at the church of Saint Mary's. Ed is survived by his wife, Joy; four children; and, ten grandchildren. Visitation was held at St. Vincent's Care Center with Burial Mass at Church of Saint Anne and burial at St. Mary's Cemetery, Bismarck. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Diocese of Bismarck Deaconate Formation Program, P.O. Box 1137, Bismarck, N.D. 58502-1137



## MEMORIALS

### **Robert "Bob" Brennan** **February 21, 1923 - April 6, 2014**



**Robert "Bob" Brennan**, age 91, of Lakewood, CO passed away on April 6, 2014 after a brief illness. Following Mass at St. Jude Catholic Church he was interred at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery. Bob was born in St. Paul Park, Minnesota on February 21, 1923. He grew up in St. Paul, and met Elaine McNabb, his bride to be, while a senior in high school. After graduation, Bob enlisted in the Navy, and after he earned his "wings" as a naval aviator, Elaine and Bob were married on April 3, 1945. At the end of the war, he returned to civilian life. He graduated from the University of Iowa with a major in chemistry, and he continued with some graduate work in advanced chemistry.

Shortly after receiving his degree, on June 15, 1950, Bob joined USGS and began a 36-year career. Hal Langford recalls, "Bob Brennan and I began our careers with USGS at almost the same time in the Regional Office and Laboratories of the Quality of Water Branch, WRD, in Lincoln, NE. We had responsibility for water quality and sedimentation investigations in the Missouri River Basin and Minnesota. In 1959, I was transferred to the Director's Office and Bob was transferred to California in about 1953. Then in 1961, I was transferred to Salt Lake City, Utah as Chief of the QW District which covered Utah, Colorado, and Southwest Wyoming. I established a sub-district office in Denver, CO, and recruited Bob to head it. Bob and I retired in the 1980s and as WRD Retirees, we continued to have a long-standing friendship and close relationship that totaled over 60 years."

Bob remained in Denver for the next 18 years, retiring in 1980. He was "Mr. QW" in Colorado; knew every study and every report and was always there to help. He was the favorite uncle or big brother while in the WRD family and that continued as a WRD Retiree. For the past 34 years he has been there as a retiree and a friend.

Bob is survived by his wife, Elaine, after 69 years of marriage; four daughters; sons-in law; 14 grandchildren; and numerous great grandchildren. And, many sisters and brothers in the WRD Retirees Family remember him fondly.

Memorial donations in honor of Bob can be made to: St. Jude Catholic Church, 9405 W. Florida Ave., Lakewood, CO 80232, or the charity of your choice.

***--Contributed by Jim Blakey with considerable assistance from Hal Langford.***

## MEMORIALS

**Dr. Blair F. Jones**  
**(USGS Scientist Emeritus)**  
**April 14, 1934 – March 30, 2014**



**Blair F. Jones**, 79, died at home in Alexandria, Virginia on March 30, 2014. He was born on April 14, 1934 on the South Side of Chicago, IL to the late Ralph and Phyllis Jones. Blair joined USGS in 1956 and obtained his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1963. Blair was hired as a geochemist and hydrologist at the inception of the National Research Program. He served as the first Research Advisor in NRP Groundwater Chemistry within the Water Resources Division. He helped hire several outstanding geochemists into the WRD ranks, and organized a popular course on "Geochemistry for Groundwater Systems" that is still taught at the USGS National Training Center.

Blair made many fundamental contributions to our understanding of water-rock interactions, especially the mineralogy and geochemistry of clay minerals. Blair was that rare breed of geologist/hydrologist who used his extensive field experience and intuition to inform numerical modeling. He pioneered the development of computer models for calculating the distribution of elements and chemicals among ion pairs and complexes in natural waters. Blair's speciation-saturation chemical code WATEQ eventually spawned PHREEQC - presently the most widely used code for such calculations. Blair was regarded as the world's authority on non-marine brines and their associated minerals, and developed code (SNORM) to investigate their genesis. To many of his colleagues, he was affectionately and appropriately known as the "Brine Monster" to many of his colleagues. He also was the top expert on the alteration of volcanic glass and the formation and characterization of poorly-crystalline clay minerals, which he first encountered in his field studies of saline lakes and then applied to characterize the chemical evolution of these lakes and to reconstruct past environments and climate. Blair was best known for his seminal work on the Great Salt Lake in Utah, but he also worked in other saline systems around the world, including Africa and Australia, which gained him an international reputation. In recent years, and in collaboration with his wife Jane Flinn, Blair applied his knowledge of the behavior of aqueous metals to help understand the adverse human health effects that first-order transition metals like zinc and copper can have as environmental contaminants.

Among his many honors, Blair was elected a Fellow of both the Geological Society of America and the Mineralogical Society of America, was honored as the Ingerson International Lecturer by the International Association of Geochemistry (2002), and served as President of the Clay Minerals Society (2002). He was one of the first scientists in NRP to achieve "ST" status in USGS, and also awarded the DOI Distinguished Service Award.

Blair was always nurturing, patient, and enthusiastic with junior colleagues, and he had an encyclopedic knowledge of researchers in and out of USGS. He had a marvelous sense of humor that was appreciated by everyone, and he could turn frustrating moments into laughter. Traffic jams over the Potomac Bridge on the Beltway became forever known as the "Car-Strangled Spanner." He also had a love and enthusiasm for good wine and music. We will miss Blair Jones' vast knowledge, his great wit and humor, and most of all, his companionship.

He was a tennis player, oenophile, cat lover, jazz aficionado, and Civil War and railroad enthusiast. Blair was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Foster Jones, who died in 1993. Blair was the husband of Jane; father of Geoffrey (Lisa) and Sheryl, step-father of Susan (Bradley); grandfather of Bryan; and brother of Ed. He also leaves his cat, Graham. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish, Chevy Chase, MD, where Blair was a devoted member. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Blair F. Jones' memory to: The Geological Society of America Foundation, ([www.gsafweb.org](http://www.gsafweb.org)); Hearts and Homes for Youth, ([www.heartsandhome.org](http://www.heartsandhome.org)), the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation, ([www.wtef.org](http://www.wtef.org)) or the Washington Humane Society, ([www.washhumane.org](http://www.washhumane.org)).

**-- Jerad Bales, Acting Associate Director for Water, Reston, VA**

## MEMORIALS

### **Sandra (Sandy) R. Turner** **April 1, 1943 – January 9, 2014**



**Sandra “Sandy” R. Turner**, 70, passed away on January 9, 2014 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, IA, after a long battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). Sandy was born to Thomas and Miriam Lister in Watsonville, CA, on April 1, 1943. She attended Watsonville High School, was a straight ‘A’ student, played in the school’s marching band, and was the Valedictorian of her graduating class of 1960. Her sisters recalls, “Sandy would often fill the house with music as she played either the piano, the clarinet or the oboe. Sandy was also an avid reader, and especially liked reading the Westerns of Zane Grey.” After graduation, Sandy attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA, and ultimately graduated in 1964 with a degree in mathematics, still maintaining her perfect 4.0 grade point average. After Cal Poly, she enrolled at Purdue University and earned her Master’s degree in math and computer science. It was at Purdue that she met her future husband, Dr. Keith Turner, who became a professor at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO.

Charles Nethaway remembers Sandy: “I worked with Sandy at the USGS from 1978 when I had the great pleasure to hire her into the Colorado District of WRD as a Computer System Analyst. She, backed by her very impressive education, became a favorite friend and outstanding employee immediately. In her first weeks Sandy proved her worth by taking over a large system of custom programs, intently studying, with amazing ease, how they worked. In short order she was handling the system as if she had been there for years. Sandy worked in the District until 1987. She got along with all of her District colleagues and was a dear friend and confidante with everyone. Sandy took over the Computer Services Section when it was modernizing at a very fast pace and, of course, she did well. We bade her farewell when she left for the National Water Quality Lab where she excelled for the rest of her career. Sandy was surely one of the very nicest persons I had the pleasure to know during my Survey career.”

In 1987, Sandy began her duties in the National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) where she worked as a Systems Analyst for Laboratory Data Systems. In 1994, she began working with the newly established Biological Quality Unit where she created and integrated its requirements with NAWQA biology sample submissions. Upon her return to NWQL, Sandy became Acting IT Chief (Supervisor of the Systems Group) and continued with other various projects until her retirement on June 11, 2012 after 33 years with USGS. Sandy and her IT colleagues advanced the laboratory’s computer systems as they moved from minicomputers to stand-alone desktop computers, ensuring the login security and integration of the large number of computers and applications that were transferred to, and developed for, the desktops. She represented the NWQL at national WRD computer conferences and ensured that the procurement needs and requirements relating to state-of-the-art IT technology (including IT certification and accreditation) and future IT needs were met. These were the kinds of challenges that Sandy loved.

Merilee Bennett arrived in 1993 at the NWQL as the Budget Analyst, and she fondly remembers Sandy, saying, “My contact with Sandy began almost the first day I arrived. Sandy had many strong points: she possessed a working knowledge of the NWQL IT needs (from sample login, sample tracking, sample billing, etc.); she had a strong work ethic; she was a great listener and sounding board for IT integration based on capability of the system and the user’s needs. Sandy always gave credit where credit was due to her staff and supported them 100%; and, she had an open door policy which I found made it easier to discuss new ideas, bumps in the road to implementation, and IT requirements. But most of all, Sandy was always positive, always had a smile, and you always felt heard and supported. These are things that cannot be taught, they are inherent to the individual from the beginning. When I retired, we eventually lost contact and for that I have felt a loss but for the time we worked together and shared family stories I am grateful for the assistance she provided and the privilege of knowing someone like Sandy.”

Finally, the greatest joys of Sandy’s life were her three children; Cameron, Melissa and Bryan. Her face would always light up with happiness when she spoke of them. A memorial service for Sandy was held on March 29<sup>th</sup> in Golden, CO. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The ALS Association.  
<http://www.alsa.org/donate/>

***--Contributions by Charles Nethaway and Merilee Bennett***

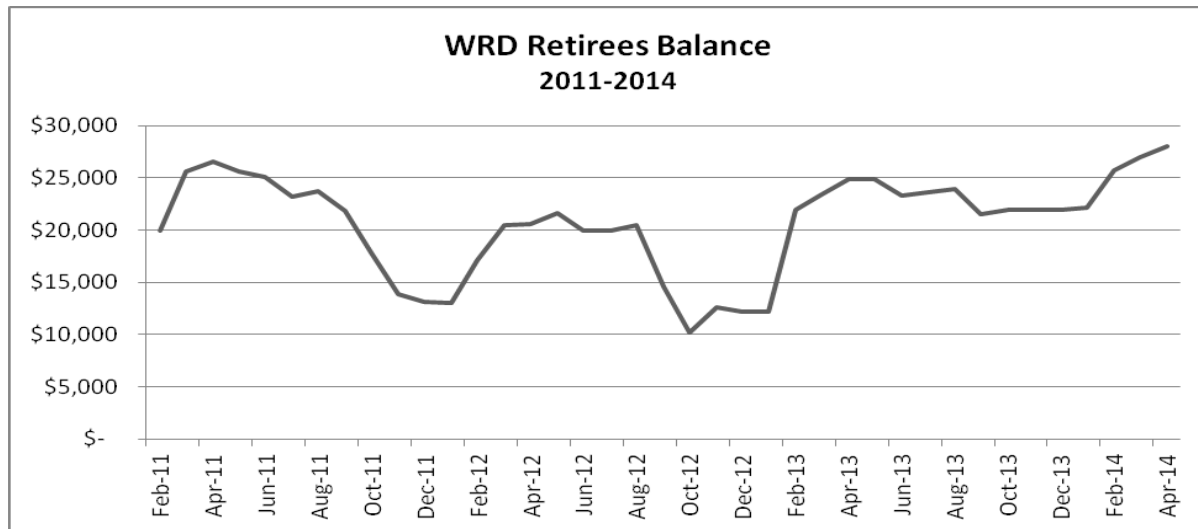
## TREASURER'S REPORT, CONTRIBUTIONS, BUDGET AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$28,045.28 in the treasury at the end of the first quarter for calendar year 2014. Receipts for the quarter were \$6,450.63 from dues and contributions from 276 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$557.95, including the cost for the printing of the WRD Retirees Newsletter. During the quarter, a total of \$950.00 in contributions above dues was received from 58 members.

### Special thanks for contributions above dues go to:

Kenneth Lindskov, Timothy Rowe, Lloyd Reed, Ralph Cheng, Dennis Kent, Terence Danielson, William Hardt, Wilbur Thomas, Veronica Andreani, Arthur Scott, Stephen Sorenson, John P. Borland, David J. Camp, Alan Brown, Linda McMullen, Russell C. Wagner, Bert Thomsen, Ennio Guisti, David Morgan, Patricia Hamel, Harlan Counts, Douglas Posson, Raymond Smith, Jesse Klingler, Chester Thomas, Gerald Meyer, Vincent Lai, Gary Cobb, Judith Boohar, Marvin Fretwell, Harold Gill, Tim Hale, Ronald Rathbun, Pedro Diaz, Stephen Field, William Harkness, Jo Ann Huffman, Philip Cohen, Eugene Charbonneau, Robert Dingman, Patrick Glancy, Allen Noechre, Ren Jen Sun, Bruce Parks, Kenneth Markham, Paul Hayes, Chester Zenone, Dorothy Narducci, Harold Golden, George Irwin, Deborah and Richard Lumia, James Pearman, Beverly Pittarelli, Roger Rumenik, William Taylor, Lonnie Fekula, and Georgina de Pineiro.

Our WRD Retirees organization is healthy from a budget perspective. Celso Puente, our treasurer, has recently done an analysis of the last several years of our revenues and expenditures. He has found that we continue to be able to pay for our newsletter, its printing and mailing; the expenses of our annual directory; miscellaneous mailing expenses; and for our most important organizational outreach, the scholarships that are given through the Hydrologic Technicians Scholarship Fund. Almost two-thirds of our members now receive their newsletters electronically, and this saves a lot of expense for both printing and postage.



**"Source: Treasurer's Analysis, April 2014"**

You can see in the graphic developed for this article by President Tim Smith that our bank account reached an all-time high at the end of March 2014.

We will soon be paying for the printing and mailing of the 2014 40th Annual WRD Retirees Directory and the May 2014 newsletter, as well as miscellaneous expenses for our 2014 Reunion in Portland, Maine.

Our newsletters, annual directory, and biennial reunions fulfill our mission of keeping ourselves connected with one another while staying informed about the USGS and our country.

According to our president, Tim Smith, our scholarship committee has the go-ahead to give several 2014 scholarships to students whom we hope will become hydrologic technicians in the USGS. Sincere thanks go to all of our members who contribute "a little bit extra" for the scholarships.

The scholarship committee, headed by Jim Blakey and Jim Kircher, receives applications from students who have studied for one year in Community Colleges that have a degree for hydrologic technicians and who are doing summer work at a Water Science Center. Once students are selected for scholarships, we will use the August Newsletter to announce the winners. In the November Newsletter we publish pictures of the winners receiving their scholarships.

# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 163S  
SUPPLEMENT  
May 2014

*An organization of retirees of the Water Resources Discipline, U.S. Geological Survey, whose purpose is to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency.*

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

We have some interesting articles for our May 2014 Supplement. In May 2005, Newsletter 127, **Bob Brennan** wrote an article on his World War II experiences. This was one of several articles written by retirees who were also veterans. Since Bob has recently passed away, on April 6, we thought it would be a nice tribute to reprint his memories.

The Department of the Interior has issued a Secretarial Order and taken a Youth Initiative to encourage DOI bureaus and American young people to interact for mutual benefit. We have printed **Secretary Jewell's** press release on the subject.

Finally, we received several comments regarding our dear friend, **Sandy Turner**, who also passed away on January 9 of this year. Because these would not fit in the Memorial, we have inserted several of them in the Supplement.

As you can see, we continue to have a lot of interest in these articles that we put into the Supplement. Please keep the articles and photographs coming. We are happy to share your contributions with other members of the WRD Retirees Organization.

--Charles

### ***How to Submit Items to the WRD Retirees Newsletter Supplement***

Our Newsletter Supplement is published online in color. We accept color and black-and-white photographs along with personal stories and published articles.

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Enjoy the Supplement, and we hope to hear from you soon.

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## **Bob Brennan's WWII Military History**

*(Written by Bob Brennan and reprinted from WRD NL 127, May 2005)*

I was sworn into the Navy V-5 program in Dec. 1942, and they told me to continue my college education until they called me up. At that time I was in my second year in Chemistry. In July 1943, I was activated and sent to Northfield, Minnesota to attend the Naval Flight Prep School at St. Olaf College. This training consisted of physical training as well as classes in radio code, navigation, meteorology, aircraft recognition and military drill. In early November we were sent to the WTS (War Training School) at Minot, North Dakota, where we were taught to fly Piper Cub airplanes. We continued with physical training and ground school classes with half of each day spent at the airfield. Our flight instructors were civilian pilots but a Navy Flight Officer was in charge of flight training. We didn't have much snow that year, but we had plenty of below zero weather. Our commanding officer must have felt sorry for us because he arranged for us to be sent to preflight school at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, instead of Iowa City, Iowa.

When we arrived at the university, we found that half of the trainees were enlisted Navy and Marine men. They had already seen active duty in the Pacific and most were married. We got a firsthand taste of what war is like by talking to them. Most of them were older than we and much more experienced. They were allowed to spend Saturday night and Sunday with their wives but had to report back to base by six o'clock on Monday morning. Preflight school consisted of vigorous physical activity including track, swimming, obstacle course, soccer, football and survival training. After three months of this we were sent to primary flight base. The Navy, at this time, decided that the flight-training program was too large, so all preflight classes beginning after ours were reduced by fifty percent. We cadets were sent to Ottumwa Naval Air Station in Ottumwa, Iowa, and the enlisted men were sent to Dallas, Texas. We were finally getting plenty of flight training at Primary Flight School. We flew Stearman biplanes half of each day. Then we spent the other half on ground school classes and lots of swimming. Flying consisted of precision landing, small field emergency landing techniques, aerobatics, formation flying and night landings. Attrition reduced our class by about fifty percent.

In July 1944, those of us who passed were sent to the Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Texas. While there, we did most of our flying in SNJ airplanes (Army Air Corps AT -6's). We learned combat flight tactics, gunnery, bombing, navigation flights, night flying and instrument flying. Here we again did radio code work and were introduced to aircraft RADAR. The last thing we did before graduation was to be checked out in flying the Douglas Dauntless SBD Scout Bomber. This was to acquaint us with the differences in handling a heavier and more powerful airplane. Finally, in March 1945, we were presented with our wings and the grade of Ensign. By this time the Navy was anticipating a hard struggle with the planned invasion of Japan. The attrition rate at preflight and primary stations in 1944 left the Navy with a shortage of trained pilots, so most of our graduating class was assigned to the flight training command. Prior to reporting, I returned to St. Paul, Minnesota with two weeks leave and married my high school sweetheart, Elaine McNabb, on April 3, 1945. We honeymooned during a blizzard in Duluth, Minnesota, quite a change from Corpus Christi, Texas. Together, we traveled to my new duty station in New Orleans, Louisiana, where I began flight instructor training. While en route, we noticed flags flying at half-mast on April 12, 1945, and learned that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had died. We were still living in New Orleans on VB Day, May 2, 1945. Everyone turned out on the streets to celebrate. It was quite an emotional day.

When I completed the flight instructor-training program, I was assigned to the Primary Training Station at Ottumwa, Iowa. I was pleased with this assignment as it was like going home. Flight instructing was very satisfying, although quite short. Before we knew it, it was August 15, 1945, and the end of war had come. The next few months, until November 1945, were spent moving aircraft from Ottumwa to Corpus Christi. In November I was sent to Great Lakes Naval Station where I was released to inactive duty. I was finally discharged from the Navy in 1962.



## Secretary Jewell Announces Order to Implement Youth Initiative Connecting Millions of Young People to America's Great Outdoors

### Sets Specific Goals to Work with Businesses, Conservation Groups and Youth Organizations to Provide Opportunities to Play, Learn, Serve and Work Outdoors

03/20/2014

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Formalizing an ambitious initiative to connect America's young people to the great outdoors, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today issued a Secretarial Order to significantly expand recreational, educational, volunteer and career opportunities for millions of youth and veterans on the nation's public lands, including partnerships with businesses and youth organizations to support the Obama Administration's 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC).

"If Americans are going to continue to have healthy lifestyles, healthy lands and a healthy economy, one of the steps we must take is to bridge the growing divide between young people and nature," Jewell said. "Under this order, we are establishing specific goals that the department, as manager of America's national parks, refuges and other public lands, will meet by working hand in hand with businesses, conservation organizations, Tribes, youth groups and other partners."

The Secretarial Order formalizes the goals of the youth initiative Jewell first outlined at a National Press Club speech on October 31, 2013. It sets forth specific benchmarks for increasing Interior's engagement with the next generation, empowers bureaus and offices to lead and implement a comprehensive strategy for meeting the goals, and outlines the accountability structure and implementation framework to achieve the goals, which are described as follows:

- **Play:** Interior will develop or enhance outdoor recreation partnerships in a total of 50 cities over the next four years, to create new, systemic opportunities for outdoor play for over 10 million young people.
- **Learn:** In four years, Interior will provide educational opportunities to at least 10 million of the nation's K-12 student population annually. In addition to welcoming students into public lands, Interior will leverage technology, including the recently launched National Park Service teacher portal, to bring our public lands to the classrooms.
- **Serve:** In four years, Interior will attain one million volunteers annually on public lands. Interior will invest in volunteer management and coordination to ensure anyone who has an interest in devoting their time and talents to public lands has an opportunity to serve.
- **Work:** Interior will provide 100,000 work and training opportunities to young people and veterans over four years within our bureaus and through public-private partnerships.

President Obama has made investing in America's youth a priority. The President's 2015 budget request for Interior proposes \$50.6 million for youth programs and employment opportunities, a \$13.6 million (or 37 percent) increase from 2014.

Three years ago, the Administration launched the 21CSC, a national collaborative effort to put America's youth and veterans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's natural and cultural resources. This interagency effort is a central component of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative, which is helping to protect some of the places that Americans love most and to connect people from all backgrounds with the recreational, economic and health benefits of our

nation's lands and waters.

In addition, Secretary Jewell has called upon the private sector and philanthropic organizations to contribute \$20 million to fund additional employment opportunities through the 21CSC and provide pathways to employment for young people and veterans.

"In a time of constrained resources, we should be looking for innovative ways to achieve the same margin of excellence," Jewell said. "That is why we are asking corporations, foundations and philanthropists to join us by helping us raise funds needed for these programs, supporting volunteer efforts, and incorporating preferential hiring practices for corps members."

Already, two major companies, American Eagle Outfitters and Camelbak, have committed funds toward this goal. Funds will be administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and awarded directly to youth conservation corps to hire young people and veterans.

Jewell noted that, with one third of the department's work force eligible to retire in five years, America needs to raise up a new vanguard of professionals to care for our natural and cultural resources for future generations.

"The next generation of scientists, wildlife biologists, tribal experts, park managers and conservation leaders are now in school or just entering the workforce," she said. "This is the time we need to invest in creating meaningful connections between young people and the great outdoors."

To learn more about the Interior Department's youth initiative, see <http://www.doi.gov/youth>

## **USGS Friends Remember Sandy Turner**

I was sorry to hear of Sandy's death. I knew that she was involved in a number of work groups looking into functionality for the next generation DIS systems and software. Her work on the DIS came mostly after I had left so I was not intimately familiar with her contributions.

However, she and her husband Keith Turner, a professor at the Colorado School of Mines, were instrumental in helping a colleague of Jim Biesecker's from the British Geological Survey perform a year's work at CSM. Brian Kelk was Jim's counterpart at the BGS in Keyworth, Nottinghamshire, England. Their interest was in applying GIS (then relatively new) to seismic and subterranean mining hazards to assist the insurance industry to set rates better for households and businesses in England. He and Keith collaborated on a number of models, GIS applications, papers and presentations. Sandy assisted in part by connecting them with computer and GIS/mapping scientists in the USGS to share their developments.

I always enjoyed her participation in any venture. She was bright, had such a mellow and collaborative personality, and was willing to go the extra mile to help.

***Doug Posson, Rockport, ME***

Sandy's passing came as quite a shock. Although I had not seen her in years, here are my memories. I worked with Sandy when both of us worked for the Colorado WRD District computer section from around 1980-85. Sandy was an absolutely brilliant person and I often marveled at how she came up with simple solutions for what were then, complex problems. Those were the early days when the WRD DIS network that connected all the offices to Reston, and eventually the Internet, was just getting off the ground. Most of our work was in connecting offices and developing the means to run applications over that network. Sandy was instrumental in both developing the network and helping the scientists to run models and applications over that network. Much of her work laid the groundwork for future use of the network by the scientists.

But what I really remember most about Sandy was her being the kindest, sweetest person I have ever known. Even when our days were going down the tube and we were pulling our hair out, there was Sandy with a smile on her face. She always had the time for others or, she dropped everything and made the time. She was the type of person you wanted on your team as she kept her head and helped bring people together. She was always able to see the best, the good, the value in others.

The Colorado District, like most of WRD and USGS, was a very diversified office in backgrounds, etc. I was always grateful to Sandy in teaching me to understand, accept and value others; to see and honor the best in others. She will be solely missed.

***Bob Wakelee***

In 1985 the Colorado District combined computer service for all Water entities in Building 53 which included the Colorado District, Yucca Mountain, National Training Center and the NRP. Sandy was the first one to lead the IT team and was System Administrator for everyone. She did so with a smile and maintained exceptional service to everyone.

***Jim Kircher***

I am still working in the Colorado IT section, mostly doing hardware. I really don't know what I could add to Sandy's memorial. I did attend the family and friends memorial on Saturday, March 29. It was very well put together. I can't believe she is gone. It was nice to have seen her kids grown and doing very well professionally. She was very well liked here at the District professionally as well as privately. She got along with everyone.

***Pauline Juarez***

Sandy was a wonderful friend and colleague. She is missed.

***Barbara Kemp***