

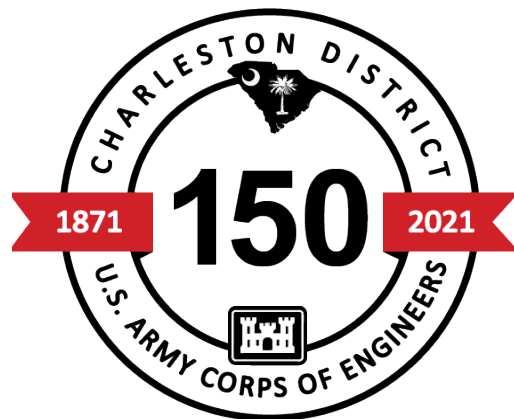


U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHARLESTON DISTRICT

PALMETTO CASTLE



Dylan Burnell/US Army



Lt. Col. Andrew Johannes

Commander

Lisa Metheney

Senior Civilian

Glenn Jeffries

Communications Chief

Editorial Staff

Jackie Pennoyer

Russell Toof

Dylan Burnell



Dylan Burnell/US Army

**News Magazine of the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Charleston District**

Circulation: 1,200

The Palmetto Castle is a quarterly unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 under supervision of the Corporate Communications Office. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of Defense. Inquiries, comments and requests for electronic copies can be forwarded to the editor of the Palmetto Castle by e-mail to: PalmettoCastle@usace.army.mil.

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fallen heroes



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Dylan Burnell/US Army



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Celebrating 150 Years

I am so honored to be the 89th commander of the Charleston District. I take this responsibility very seriously and will give my best every day to the citizens of South Carolina and this great nation. Long before I got here, I heard of the district's "world-class" reputation, and over the last few months, I have seen first-hand why they hold this prestigious honor.

My longer than usual transition allowed me to learn my job and to already meet many of you, so I feel like I am hitting the ground running. For those of you I have yet to meet, I look forward to meeting each of you in the coming months. Our customers and partners are imperative to the work we do. I am committed to strengthening our already strong ties at all levels: local, state and federal. Please never hesitate to contact me with any issues, problems, or concerns. Together we can solve the nation's toughest engineering challenges.

I am also very excited to be joining the district as we celebrate 150 years of service to the state and nation and tell our story. My change of command was the final piece of three milestone events in July during which we took some time to celebrate this historic achievement. You will enjoy getting a glimpse into these special moments (pages 11-12). We were thrilled to have Governor McMaster join us and declare July 15, 2021 as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District day across the state (pages 5-8). It was quite an honor and we are proud to have played a critical role in the growth and prosperity of South Carolina.

During my time in the district, I will have the privilege of wrapping up the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening project. As we continue to deliver this multi-million infrastructure project, we have a lot of activity in the harbor. Boating season continues into early winter in the Lowcountry, so please be mindful of this when you are out on the water (page 13).

Our regulators are always busy balancing development with our beautiful environment and our recent permit to a well-known winemaker is no exception (page 17). In the future, when I am sipping wine that was bottled in Fort Lawn, S.C., I will smile thinking of the job creation this team helped support while also maintaining our commitment to no net loss of aquatic resources.

We are also working on some important construction projects for the Department of Veteran Affairs, one of our Interagency and International Service customers. Plans are in the works to help the Columbia medical center with some critical parking support (page 19). We just turned over an expansion of a national cemetery, also located in Columbia, to the National Cemetery Administration. Expanding the final resting place for our nations heroes was an honor. If you are in the Columbia area, please stop by and see this special place (page 21).

Each of the past commanders I spoke with at our Leaders Emeritus event told me to relish every moment in this beautiful state, because it will all go by so quickly. My family and I intend to do just that!

Stay World Class!



Andrew Johannes, PMP PE PhD
Lt. Col., U.S. Army
Commander and District Engineer
andrew.c.johannes@usace.army.mil



BUILDING ON A 150-YEAR LEGACY

LEADERS EMERITUS, EMPLOYEE CELEBRATION & CHANGE OF COMMAND

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District hosted a series of major events this summer, marking a capstone in the district's anniversary campaign, which celebrates 150 years of service to the state and nation through events and other activities across the year.

The three feature events spanned July 15-16 and included an interactive panel discussion with past leaders, a special gathering of the current district team and a change of command ceremony.

"We celebrate 150 years of dedicated world-class service this year," said Lisa Metheney, senior civilian, Charleston District. "That's a huge milestone. Our goal is to pay tribute to this historic legacy and to all those — our team and partners — who have paved the way and who continue to help deliver our vital missions."

LEADERS EMERITUS: HONORING THE PAST

To kick-off the series of keynote events, Charleston District hosted an inaugural Leaders Emeritus, bringing several former district and division leaders to Charleston to share and reflect on their leadership experience at USACE and in their later roles. Current district leadership, including several junior leaders, were in attendance.

Former Charleston District commanders Al Lee, director of Civil Works, USACE; Col. (Ret.) Edward Chamberlayne, Col. (Ret.) Jason Kirk; and Col. (Ret.) Edward Fleming all served as panelists. Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Douglass Padgett, former command sergeant major of South Atlantic Division, was also an event panelist.

“We celebrate 150 years of dedicated world-class service this year. That’s a huge milestone. Our goal is to pay tribute to this historic legacy and to all those – our team and partners – who have paved the way and who continue to deliver our vital missions.”

— Lisa Metheney, Deputy District Engineer for Programs & Project Management



Dennis Franklin/US Army



Jackie Pennoyer /US Army

Above: From left: Al Lee, Lisa Metheney, Command Sgt. Maj. Chad Blansett, Col. (Ret.) Ed Chamberlayne, Brig. Gen. Jason Kelly, Col. (Ret.) Jason Kirk, Lt. Col. Andrew Johannes, Lt. Col. Rachel Honderd, Col. (Ret.) Ed Fleming, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Douglas Padgett

Left: Brig. Gen. Jason Kelly, commanding general, South Atlantic Division, welcomes Al Lee, chief of Civil Works for USACE and a former Charleston District commander.



State of South Carolina

*In grateful remembrance of sacrifices and services to the
State of South Carolina and her people, the hereby confers upon*

KENNETH JOYNER

ORDER OF THE PALMETTO

of his/her and recognizes outstanding service

Ken D. Miller

Jackie Pennoyer/US Army

During the event, Gov. Henry McMaster made a guest appearance to present Charleston District with a proclamation that declared July 15, 2021 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District Day. The state-level proclamation was in recognition of the district's significant and enduring contributions to South Carolina since its founding in 1871.

After presenting the proclamation, McMaster also awarded Charleston-based teacher, education activist and founder of Boys with a Purpose, Kenneth Joyner, the state's highest honor: the Order of the Palmetto.

Boys with a Purpose is a local afterschool program that mentors young students through hands-on teaching and activities. The nonprofit has taken root across the state and around the country.

Padgett and other district personnel routinely volunteered to support the program and played a key role in submitting the nomination.

"The work Kenny has done in South Carolina and beyond is nothing short of incredible," said Padgett. "We were honored to submit the nomination and we're privileged to be part of such a wonderful program."

"The work Kenny has done in South Carolina and beyond is nothing short of incredible."

— Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Douglas Padgett,
Former South Atlantic Division Command
Sergeant Major



Above: Gov. McMaster presents the 150th proclamation.

Above: Kenny Joyner's family waits in the back of the room for him to receive the surprise award

Left: Kenneth Joyner, founder of Boys with a Purpose, receives Order of the Palmetto from Gov. Henry McMaster.



A SPECIAL EVENING CELEBRATION: SUPPORTING OUR PEOPLE

Following the Leaders Emeritus, more than 150 district personnel, families and stakeholders gathered at Founders Hall at Charles Towne Landing to spend time together in-person — an important part of team-building that became increasingly difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic — and celebrate the district's anniversary.

"The Charleston District team is made up of some of the best scientists, engineers and professionals in the state and nation," Metheney said. "We organized this event as a way to give back to these great folks, as well as thank our great partners and stakeholders for their continued support."

A special committee, created to oversee all anniversary activities, planned the occasion using all donated funds. During a brief awards ceremony, Glenn Jeffries, communications chief, was given a special anniversary award for embodying the district's enduring spirit of service.

Professional catering, music and a centerpiece competition were also part of the evening's activities. Staff sections created centerpieces that represented their divisions' unique mission areas, including Planning, Project Management, Regulatory, Construction, Office of Counsel, Engineering and others.



Jackie Pennoyer/US Army



Above: Divisions created themed centerpieces for the event. Pictured above include a USACE-themed castle out of graham crackers by the Engineering Division and a Lego-constructed container ship and Ravenel Bridge (not pictured) by the Planning Division.

Right: Glenn Jeffries, chief, Corporate Communications, and Narissia Skinner, executive assistant, South Atlantic Division, oversaw planning and execution of the Employee Celebration.





CHANGE OF COMMAND

The following day, incoming district commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Johannes, assumed command from Lt. Col. Rachel Honderd at a change of command ceremony July 16.

The ceremony was officiated by Brig. Gen. Jason Kelly, commanding general, South Atlantic Division, USACE.

Honderd, who played a pivotal role in planning several of the district anniversary's keynote events, including the time capsule filling event in March, presented Johannes with the capsule keys during the ceremony, a new command tradition that will continue until the capsule is opened in 2046.

Johannes, a professional engineer and project management professional, said he is honored to join the organization at its helm as it reflects on its legacy and prepares for the future.

"Charleston District has been at the forefront of modern engineering for the last 150 years," he said. "We are problem-solvers, always looking for the next challenge and a better way to deliver our missions. I look forward to leading the important work we do across the state and preparing us for 150 more years to come."

Prior to this new command role, Johannes served as a joint staff officer with NATO at the Allied Joint Forces Command in Naples, Italy.

Johannes brings nearly 20 years' experience leading engineering and construction operations around the globe and holds a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from United States Military Academy, a master's in engineering management from Missouri University of Science & Technology, and a doctorate in mechanical engineering with a focus on energy storage from the Naval Postgraduate School.



Jackie Pennoyer/US Army



Jackie Pennoyer/US Army

“Charleston District has been at the forefront of modern engineering for the last 150 years. We are problem-solvers, always looking for the next challenge and a better way to deliver our missions. I look forward to leading the important work we do across the state and preparing us for 150 more years to come.”

— Lt. Col. Andrew Johannes, District Commander

Left Page: Lt. Col. Andrew Johannes hands the guidon to Lisa Metheney during the change of command ceremony.

Top (Left): Cassie Johannes, Lt. Col. Johannes' wife, waits for the ceremony to begin with their three children.

Top (Right): Brig. Gen. Jason Kelly gives remarks during the ceremony.

Right: Lt. Col. Rachel Honderd hands Lt. Col. Andrew Johannes the key to the district's 150th time capsule.



Dylan Burnell/US Army

CHARLESTON DISTRICT REMINDS RESIDENTS TO PRACTICE HARBOR SAFETY

By Russell Toof

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District continues dredging the Charleston harbor to deepen it to 52 feet, officials with the district are reminding tri-county residents to practice safety in and around the harbor.

“Always be aware of your surroundings,” said Shelia Sollis, the chief of safety and occupational health for the district. “Be on the lookout for approaching vessels, floating debris, and unmarked hazards. The federal channel is a marine highway and construction on the water should be treated the same as it would be on pavement, approach with caution.”

Stretching across roughly 40 miles of open ocean and inner channels, the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project has a historic number of dredges working around-the-clock to complete the deepening work by the end of 2022.

“Please follow all navigational rules and allow for as much clearance as possible to safely navigate around the work areas,” said Sollis. “Many of these dredges have ancillary equipment that support the dredging activity. Some of the equipment could even be submerged, but it will always be clearly marked.”

Residents should immediately report issues associated with improperly marked or unmarked dredging components (such as dredge pipes and floats) to the nearest Coast Guard unit. These items

can cause extensive damage to hulls, shafting, rudders, and keels of passing watercraft.

“Please report issues, but never approach the dredging site or any related project equipment under any circumstances, whether they are active operations or not,” added Sollis.

Sollis also recommends operating watercraft at a speed that allows you to see and avoid the hazards.

“Slow down when in or approaching a congested waterway and when weather or visibility conditions are poor,” said Sollis. “No-wake speeds should be observed in active work zones.”

Equally important is to always wear your life jacket when on or near the water. Accidents happen unexpectedly. They float and you don't!

To learn more about the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project and see our video on the dredging activity, visit our website at <https://www.sac.usace.army.mil/>. For the latest updates, follow “Charleston Corps” on social media.



ELLIOTT PLANT

FRANCES PLANT

PROJECT ECO SWITCHING YARD

5

4

3

8

7

2

1

FUTURE DISTRIBUTION CTR
+140,000SF

DISTRIBUTION CENTER
+150,000SF

DISTRIBUTION CENTER
+160,000SF

MAINT.
+120,000SF

CUP
+140,000SF

PRODUCTION
+128,000SF

PROCESSING
+118,000SF

FUTURE PRODUCTION
+128,000SF

FUTURE PROCESSING
+118,000SF

FUTURE PRODUCTION
+140,000SF

FUTURE STORAGE
+160,000SF

POSSIBLE FUTURE PRODUCTION
+140,000SF

POSSIBLE FUTURE PRODUCTION
+140,000SF

OFFICE
+172,000SF

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
+110 AC (12%)

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
+110 AC (12%)

ONCE A CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET, PROJECT MAGMA REVEALED TO BE NEW EAST COAST HUB FOR THE WORLD'S LARGEST WINEMAKERS

By Dylan Burnell

The largest winemaker in the world has chosen South Carolina as the location for its new bottling and distribution plant. E&J Gallo Winery has announced that its upcoming facility located in Chester County will be the company's primary distribution hub east of the Mississippi.

If you haven't heard of the E&J Gallo Winery project, you may know it by its other name: Project Magma. The name Magma was chosen by Gallo as a reference to the molten hot lava that serves as the primary ingredient in bottle making. The \$400-million investment, which first required a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory permit, will create more than 500 jobs with a potential for even more jobs in the future as expansions are planned.

Regulatory began working with the applicant on the 630-acre site in November 2020 and finished in early July of this year. While the permitting process went fairly quickly for a project of this size, USACE regulators needed to ensure that everything was in order just as it would be for any other regulatory permit application. Richard Darden, the regulatory project manager, said the level of preparation in the winemaker's application had a huge impact on the timeline.

"What was different about their project was their level of preparation," Darden said. "I would say

their efficiency, attention to detail and constant communication kept the back-and-forth process moving. It's always a continuing dialogue when working a large application such as this."

The location of the plant came with its own set of challenges. Located in the upstate, the site had aquatic resources commonly found in that area. That location includes wetlands and tributaries that flow into the Catawba River, therefore requiring a USACE permit under the Clean Water Act.

Multiple streams and associated wetlands that feed directly into the Catawba River were found on the site. "No net loss" of aquatic resources is a goal of the regulatory program. This goal includes incorporating as much avoidance and minimization of impacts to streams and wetlands into the project design, while achieving the project's purpose. After identifying the alternative with the least wetland and stream impacts, compensatory mitigation is typically required to offset the unavoidable losses.

The mitigation work by Gallo will take place on the Lancaster County side of the Catawba River where existing wetland and stream systems will be enhanced by improving the flow pathway of water through the system. The 500-acre mitigation area will ultimately become part of Landsford Canal State Park.

Left: Project Magma, future east coast hub for E & J Gallo Winery, will be constructed near the Catawba River in Chester County. The bottling and distribution plant represents a dense footprint designed to maximize production efficiency and minimize wetland and stream impacts.

In speaking with Darden, it was clear that mitigating the effects of the development was not only Regulatory's top priority, but also Gallo's.

"We felt like their project was an important one in terms of the number of jobs it could bring to this rural area since Fort Lawn is home to less than 900 residents," Darden said. "They had a very responsible design that minimized aquatic resource impacts and had a very satisfactory mitigation plan."

The new plant will include the facilities needed for production, bottling, containerization and distribution of E&J Gallo wine and spirits. The range of products made at the new plant will be sold throughout the east coast, as well as exported overseas using the port of Charleston.

A twenty-minute drive to nearby Interstate 77 and with a rail line passing through town, Gallo found an ideal site for its new location. They have added railroad track spurs that go directly into the plant to allow for the loading and unloading of rail cars, therefore requiring fewer trucks for distribution.

"We see some projects where the analysis of alternative options is not thoroughly explored, but this was not one of those," Darden said. "They really worked with us and their savviness to the process and knowing how we were going to interact made a huge difference in the timeliness of our permit decision. They just asked what they needed to do and did it."

By choosing South Carolina as the location for its new plant, Gallo is following a growing trend of many other corporations such as Volvo and Walmart. With the district's ongoing dredging of Charleston Harbor, Gallo says it plans to double, or even triple, its current operations as the Charleston Harbor becomes the deepest port on the east coast.

As the district celebrates 150 years of service to South Carolina and the nation, Project Magma is just one in a long line of other important regulatory permits the district has helped facilitate, while staying committed to the protection of our most precious resource, the environment. We are proud to play a critical role in the growth and prosperity of South Carolina.

“ We felt like their project was an important one in terms of the number of jobs it could bring to this rural area since Fort Lawn is home to less than 900 residents. They had a very responsible design that minimized aquatic resource impacts and had a very satisfactory mitigation plan.

— Richard Darden, Regulatory project manager

Right: Lt. Col. Andrew Johannes, district commander, accompanies Richard Darden on a site visit in August 2021. The Regulatory Division reviews hundreds of permit applications and jurisdictional determinations across the state every year.



NEW GARAGE AT COLUMBIA VETERANS AFFAIRS HOSPITAL TO ADDRESS PARKING SHORTAGE

By Dylan Burnell

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District recently awarded a contract for the expansion and construction of a new parking deck at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Columbia, S.C.

The project includes the vertical expansion of an existing parking garage from three-levels to four, construction of an adjacent four-level parking deck and other associated site improvements. Once completed, the two garages, located next to the Mental Health and Psychiatry building, will be connected forming one large parking deck bringing critical parking to the patients and staff who use the valuable services provided at the medical center.

The expansion is designed to increase patient safety while also enhancing access to the main hospital with the much-needed parking spaces. The new garage will address the significant parking gap on the campus by providing the spaces needed for the Medical Centers patients, employees and visitors.

The new parking deck will provide an additional 320 parking spots for the Medical Center, bringing the total number of spaces to just under 650.

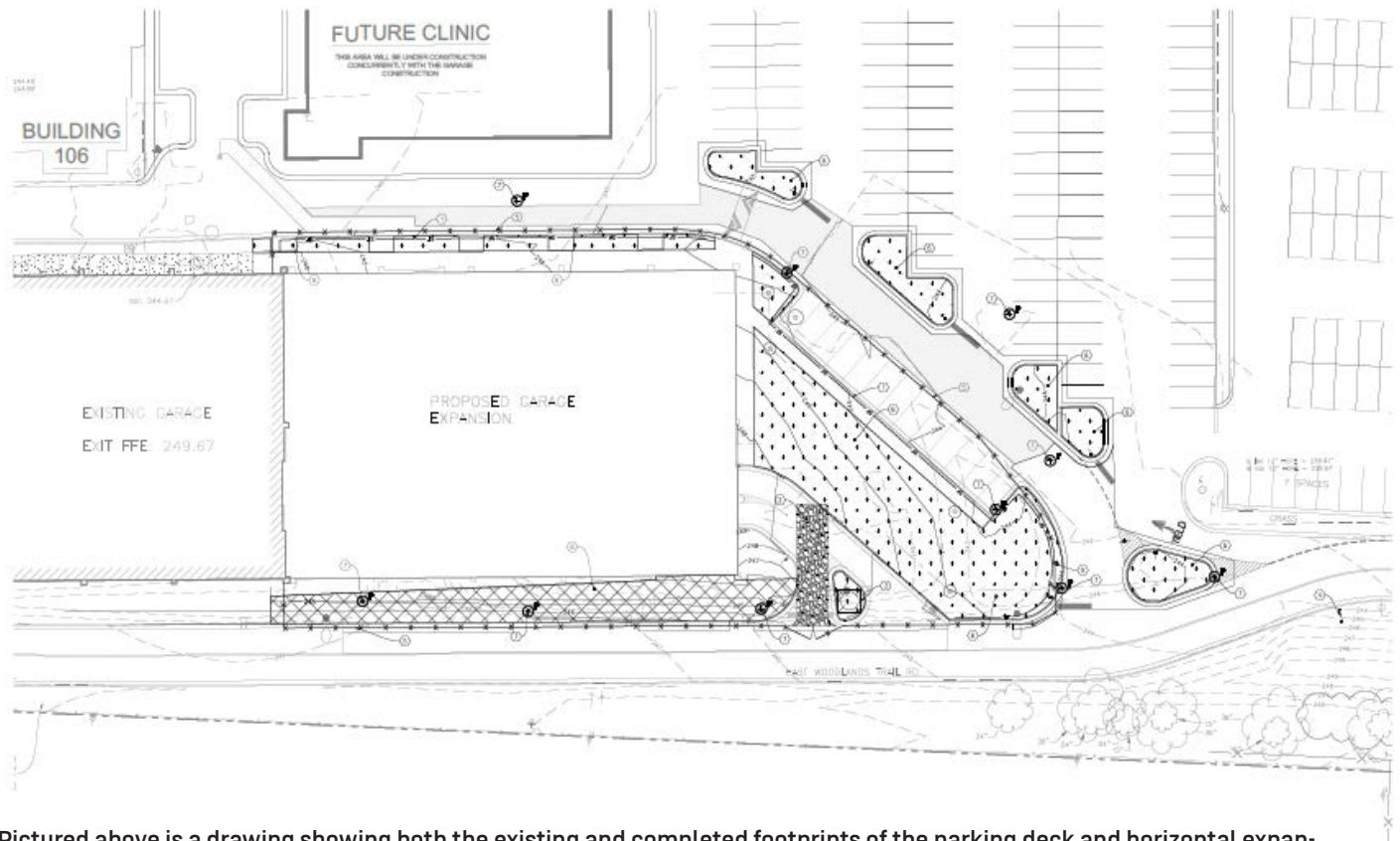
Currently, only a single parking garage exists at the Columbia Veterans Affairs Hospital. With the addition of the new structure, patients and staff will be much closer to the critical facilities housed in the Medical Tower.

“There is a parking shortage, but this project will provide additional parking while also being within close proximity of the medical center,” says Robert Sorenson, International and Interagency Support program manager for the Charleston District. “It is going to be the only parking deck on the campus and when it comes to the veterans, you want to give them the easiest possible access to these potentially lifesaving services.

The design for the parking deck is already finalized, and following a 90-day submittal approval process, during which the pre-cast concrete will be prepared, work will begin at the site. A focus of both the VA and USACE is to ensure spaces remain available during the construction.

“Charleston District is partnering with VA Columbia leadership to communicate and minimize disruptions caused by the parking deck and surface lot shutdowns,” Sorenson said. “The first 2 levels of the existing parking deck will be reopened once the vertical expansion is finished while the contractor completes the non-structural build-out of the new level construction. East Woodland Trail Drive will be shut down for 21 days during this period to enable the use of a crane to erect the pre-cast concrete.”

Construction projects like this one, enable the VA to provide top notch care for our nation’s heroes and the Charleston team is proud to be able to help.



Pictured above is a drawing showing both the existing and completed footprints of the parking deck and horizontal expansion. It also shows the revisions to the existing surface parking lot to create the garage's new entrance and exit, as well as the roadway layout around the expanded deck.

The original parking deck, as pictured below in March 2019, at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center did not have enough parking spaces to accommodate the facility's growth in visitors and staff.





Photo courtesy of Boyer Construction, Inc.

Charleston District completed expansion of the 20-acre Fort Jackson National Cemetery this year. The newly-expanded cemetery includes more than 5,000 pre-placed crypts, 2,000 cremation sites, hundreds of traditional burial sites and a committal shelter.

HONORED TO EXPAND FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR NATION'S FALLEN HEROES

By Glenn Jeffries

The Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration honors the military service of our nation's Veterans by providing a dignified burial and a lasting memorial for our nation's heroes. With over

150 national cemeteries across the country, creating a final resting place and commemorating their extraordinary service to our nation is a top priority for the NCA.

Charleston District had the privilege of awarding a design-build project for the Fort Jackson National Cemetery Phase II Expansion. The 20-acre project provides 5,632 pre-placed crypts, 2,376 in-ground cremains sites, 729 traditional burial sites, a committal shelter, and supporting infrastructure which includes roads, utilities, landscaping, and irrigation consistent with completed initial phase infrastructure.

First developed in 2009, the 585-acre national cemetery is in Richland County just off of I-20 on property formerly held by Fort Jackson. Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the Armed Forces who have met a minimum active-duty service requirement and were discharged under honorable conditions. A Veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor dependent children and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities may also be eligible for burial in the grounds.

This project was awarded in spring 2020 to Boyer Construction. In addition to their expertise in cemetery design, their team included seven military veterans representing the Army, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, all who had collectively served 130 months in combat operations since 9/11. Most of the project team members and subcontractors assigned to the project had ties to the Columbia area, as well as the veteran community. The district's project manager, Robert Sorenson, spent 14 years serving veterans at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Clinic before joining the District 18 months ago.

"Having veterans and those who have served veterans assigned to oversee the cemetery expansion was really special to see," said Sorenson. "You get a sense of extra care and attention when fellow veterans are involved."

The project had several challenges, the first being the

ongoing pandemic. Construction during pandemic was difficult, but the team adhered to all safety protocols to keep the project moving — especially since NCA was worried about burial plots becoming depleted. Other challenges included harvesting timber, sweeping the site for unexploded ordinance, the demanding requirements for crypts and the establishment of the sod.

"The teaming and partnership between USACE Charleston District, National Cemetery Administration and Boyer was a testament that working together to accomplish a project on budget, on time and with excellent quality during unprecedented times of an ongoing pandemic is possible," said Mike Roth, Director of NCA Design and Construction Service. "Everyone's commitment to serving the veteran community in the Columbia area was clear. No challenge or obstacle was too great to deliver the cemetery expansion."

Sorenson said he learned a great deal about sod with this project. The sod was laid during the winter months and with a colder than normal spring, the roots did not take hold until May. Extensive maintenance had to be done, including weeding, fertilizing, cutting and edging, to make sure the turf was beautiful and fitting of a special place that meets the national shrine standards and expands a world-class cemetery.

Even amid the challenges of working through the height of the covid-19 pandemic, the team proved resilient, focusing on USACE's three key initiatives: strong partnering relationships, managing risk and effective management practices.

The project adhered to an aggressive timeline to ensure Fort Jackson National Cemetery is capable to continue burial operations through the foreseeable future. In keeping with the spirit of the USACE's motto — Essayons, "let us try" — the project was completed on time and within budget.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CHARLESTON DISTRICT
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403



*This issue is dedicated in
loving memory to*

~ Jackie Cotton ~

Jan. 5, 1962 - July 14, 2021

Data Management Specialist

Engineering Division, Charleston District

Your dedication to family, friends and Charleston District
teammates will always be remembered.

