

30 Year Service Award

Dona Spry – Technical Support Consultant North Information Technology Bureau

Dona began her District career in 1982 as a Supply Clerk at the West Palm Beach Field Station where she worked 12 years, moving through the roles of Assistant Storekeeper and Storekeeper. Dona continued her education in the field of computer technology and became an Administrative Technician.

In 1994, Dona's career in Information Technology officially began as a Computer Systems Technician. In 1996, Dona relocated with her husband, District Employee Shawn Spry, and two daughters to St. Cloud where she resides today, providing IT support to offices in the District's northern region.

Though the District has seen far-reaching changes in the last 30 years, especially in Information Technology, Dona's commitment to customer service and her devotion to teamwork has been constant. Due to Dona's diverse technical skills and exemplary customer service for all facets of IT support, she was recognized by the Help Desk Institute and selected as "2009 Analyst of the Year." Comments from District customers include, "Dona is very knowledgeable in all aspects of our computing needs and is invaluable to our success."

Dona, thank you for 30 years of hard work and dedicated service.

September Employee of the Month
Armando Vilaboy
Intergovernmental Representative
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

Armando exemplified proactive leadership in proposing solutions and reaching out to constituents affected by the District's operations along the C-4 Canal in Miami-Dade County. The C-4 Canal and Retention Basin provides flood protection for some of the county's most populated areas including Miami, West Miami and Sweetwater.

The C-4 Retention Wall project required continuous coordination with county and municipal officials, staff and law enforcement. Armando conducted this external work while coordinating internally with staff in Right of Way, Construction and the Miami Field Station as well as Executive Leadership.

In addition, Armando also provides support for the Hispanic media in Miami-Dade County and took the lead to develop better communication and information sharing during emergency events. An example is a fire in the vicinity of the C-4 Retention Basin which required long hours of work late into the night to lead coordination among the District, Miami-Dade Fire Department, county staff and elected officials.

Overall, Armando's efforts ensure exemplary coordination with our local partners. Thank you and congratulations, Armando.

September 2012 Team of the Month
The Storm Debby Emergency Operations Team

Team Members:

- Darlene Bass
- Wanda Rentas
- Robert Prescott
- Paul Sham
- Karl Baker
- Rick Berglund
- Frank Bradley
- Ivan Clements
- Larry Jacobs
- Travis McElroy
- David Coulter
- Ernie Feller
- Chris Graham
- Tim Ittenbach
- Mike Mann
- Don Saunders
- Thomas Scott
- Kent Farmer
- Scott Henderson
- Jeff Lamb
- Steve Dean
- Jetson Morgan
- Luis Vazquez
- Mike Sadlon
- Jose Viamontes
- Bruce Chesser

September 2012 Team of the Month
The Storm Debby Emergency Operations Team

On June 27, the first of four teams from the St. Cloud and Okeechobee Field Stations were deployed to North Florida at the request of Columbia County Emergency Operations and the Suwannee River Water Management District to assist with flood relief in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Debby. The region received devastating record rainfall during the slow moving storm with some areas recording a 500-year flood event and close to 30 inches of rain during the two-day period.

Local authorities were still in the process of accessing flooding and in the first stages of what would become an extensive and unrelenting pumping initiative. District staff assisted with reconnaissance during the initial stages then rapidly transitioned to assisting Columbia County setting, staffing and monitoring 46 pumping sites throughout the county.

Four six-person teams were deployed between June 27th and July 27th for periods ranging from 7 to ten days. The conditions were hot and the days were long. We recognize these team members for their ready-response to provide much-needed logistical support and for the dedication and professionalism they exhibited while on the job.

30 Year Service Recognition

Jerry Cope - Crew Chief

Operations, Maintenance & Construction Division

Jerry Cope was hired as a Field Worker on the Aquatic Crew at the Okeechobee Field Station in September 1982. One year later, he was promoted to an Equipment Operator 1; and, over the next 6 years, he was promoted to Operator 2, then 3.

Since June 2000, Jerry has been Crew Chief of the Canal/Levee Maintenance Crew. He is the resident expert in canal/levee maintenance and works diligently to share his knowledge and experience with other crew members because he recognizes the importance of mentoring those who will follow.

Jerry's numerous recognitions include: May 2006 Team of the Month for extinguishing brush fires on C-41A; October 2006 Team of the Month nominee for containment and clean-up of a fuel leak at Ten Mile Creek. He also participated in the Lake Okeechobee Muck Removal Project.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Jerry enjoys carpentry and electrical work; watching baseball, basketball and football; and "spoiling" his 5 grandchildren. A Florida resident since 1959, he plans to return to his home state of Alabama after retirement.

Congratulations, Jerry, on 30 years of outstanding work and dedication to the job!