



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Galveston District

News Release

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Corps, community partner to rededicate Galveston Seawall

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GALVESTON, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District and local community leaders rededicated the Galveston Seawall Oct. 6, atop the recently-completed repair work at the west end of the 105-year-old protective structure on Galveston Island during a ribbon cutting and champagne bottle christening ceremony.

The completed work, which included repairing damaged pavement on the west-end ramp, access ramps, sub grade and sidewalk damage and cracks along the Seawall caused by Hurricane Ike, highlighted the 129-year partnership between the Corps and the Galveston community.

“The seawall is symbolic of the commitment between this community, this county and the federal agencies, including the Corps of Engineers, that have participated all the way along in the process of building the seawall from start to finish starting back in 1904 to present day,” said Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. “The Galveston District was established in 1880, 20 years in advance of the Great Storm of 1900 and it points to our longtime commitment to remain a presence on Galveston, not only for the navigation mission and all that brings to the economic engine of the nation that lies here along the Gulf Coast, but also in the preservation of the communities and structures as well, as you see embodied in the seawall.”

Community leaders present for the ceremony included deputy director for U.S. Congressman Ron Paul, Dianna Kile, Galveston County Judge James D. Yarbrough and Galveston Mayor Pro Tem Danny Weber.

“The 1900 storm started off the seawall,” said Weston. “It was a terrible event that was devastating to the people that lived here at that time and the communities that were thriving here and prospering here. It’s really a symbol that those communities at that time banded together. They said, ‘We’ve suffered a terrible blow, but were not going away. We’re going to build something that’s important to the survival of this community, not only to the citizens, but the economic vitality of this island and this region.’”

“They made a decision and commitment and out of that commitment you see the seawall today. It has enhanced this community and preserved this community and it will continue to do that in the future,” said Weston. “The chief of engineers, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, has given us some marching orders. --



Galveston District commander, Col. David C. Weston, rededicated the Galveston Seawall with local community officials during a ribbon cutting and champagne bottle christening Oct. 6 at the West End of Galveston Island.

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-- If we're going to build something, we're going to build it to last. I believe the seawall has met that metric in the past and I believe what you see today of the seawall will continue to meet that metric in the future -- another hundred years if necessary. We're going to build things and we're going to build them strong and the seawall is representative of that."

Weston thanked Galveston District employees and contractors from David Boland Inc., who worked with many local subcontractors to bring the project to fruition. The project was 100 percent federally funded under Public Law 84-99, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies, to repair damage from the active 2008 hurricane season.

"The other thing that is symbolic about the seawall, it not only points to the past historically for what value it's provided to the island and the community and the human spirit that prevailed following the tremendous storm in the 1900s, but it also prevailed this time last year with Hurricane Ike," said Weston. "That same spirit is there. That same commitment is there. We need to make sure that commitment prevails. We need to look into the future; a comprehensive systemic approach to protective systems not only in Galveston, but along the coast of Texas to preserve those communities and industries that are present today and to ensure they're viable in the future."

Weston highlighted the formation of the new Gulf Coast Community Protection and Reconstruction District, a collaborative agreement amongst counties from Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson and Orange counties. The district's purpose is to look at the comprehensive systemic approach for the future of coastal Texas within the footprint of those counties. Weston commended county leadership and state leadership for acting quickly and said the Corps looks forward to working with them.

Following the ceremony, guests were invited to the Galveston District's headquarters building for a reception and official unveiling of a Galveston Seawall commemorative wall display.



Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, delivers remarks at the West End of the Galveston Seawall during a ribbon cutting and champagne christening ceremony Oct. 6.