

Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum Volunteers Recognized for Outstanding Service

The Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum is one of the biggest tourist attractions in Vicksburg, MS, providing visitors with information on the history of the lower Mississippi River and how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is involved with maintaining this invaluable natural resource. Visitors come from all over the United States and around the world to experience all that the museum has to offer including a variety of exhibits, the Mississippi River model, the River Commission's flagship Motor Vessel MS IV, an aquarium featuring fish of the lower Mississippi River, and various public events and tours. With everything the museum has to offer, it wouldn't be able to run efficiently without the hard work and dedication of our wonderful volunteers that truly make the museum such a popular stop.

Volunteers at the Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum are extremely important to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's daily management of this multi-million dollar facility. On average, volunteers log 272 hours per month at a total value of over \$138,000 per year to the Corps. With the introduction of Mississippi River tour boat cruises and an influx of new event venues and restaurants to the downtown area, the museum has seen over 23,000 visitors and our volunteers have continued to help the museum operate flawlessly. With an increase in visitors, volunteers have stayed very busy assisting visitors at the front desk with signing in, providing information on the museum, and even giving visitors recommendations on other attractions around Vicksburg. Not only do they tend to the front desk, they also assist with cleaning the facility, give private tours, answer phone calls, open and close the museum as needed, help with scheduling and running special events, hand out water safety materials, assist district personnel with training new employees, and even perform light maintenance.

Because of the hard work and dedication to making the museum a great asset to the Corps and the city of Vicksburg, sixteen volunteers were recognized for their outstanding service and awarded the Corps Foundation's Volunteer Excellence Coin and a Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation. Recipients included Barbra Bagely, Paul Banchetti, Steve Ellis, Helen Franklin, David Haworth, Martha Mobley, Randy Oswalt, Mary Reed, Lawran Richter, Tom Stallings, Richard Stewart, Faye Wilkinson, Justin Jones, Judith Rush, Calvin Buie, and Dinnie Johnston. Each of these volunteer are a great asset to the Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum. They work extremely well together and always keep a positive outlook. We are extremely grateful and honored to have each and every one of them as a part of the Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum, because without them, we wouldn't have been able to provide such a great experience for everyone that walks through the doors!

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Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum



Motor Vessel Mississippi IV



Colonel Derosier speaks with volunteers during the Volunteer Appreciation Event



Volunteers David Haworth and Tom Stallings enjoying refreshments



Corps Foundation's Volunteer Excellence Coin



Martha Mobley, Barbra Bagley, Helen Franklin, and Faye Wilkinson pose with their Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation.