

Gene Sperry  
Mississippi River Project  
Rock Island District

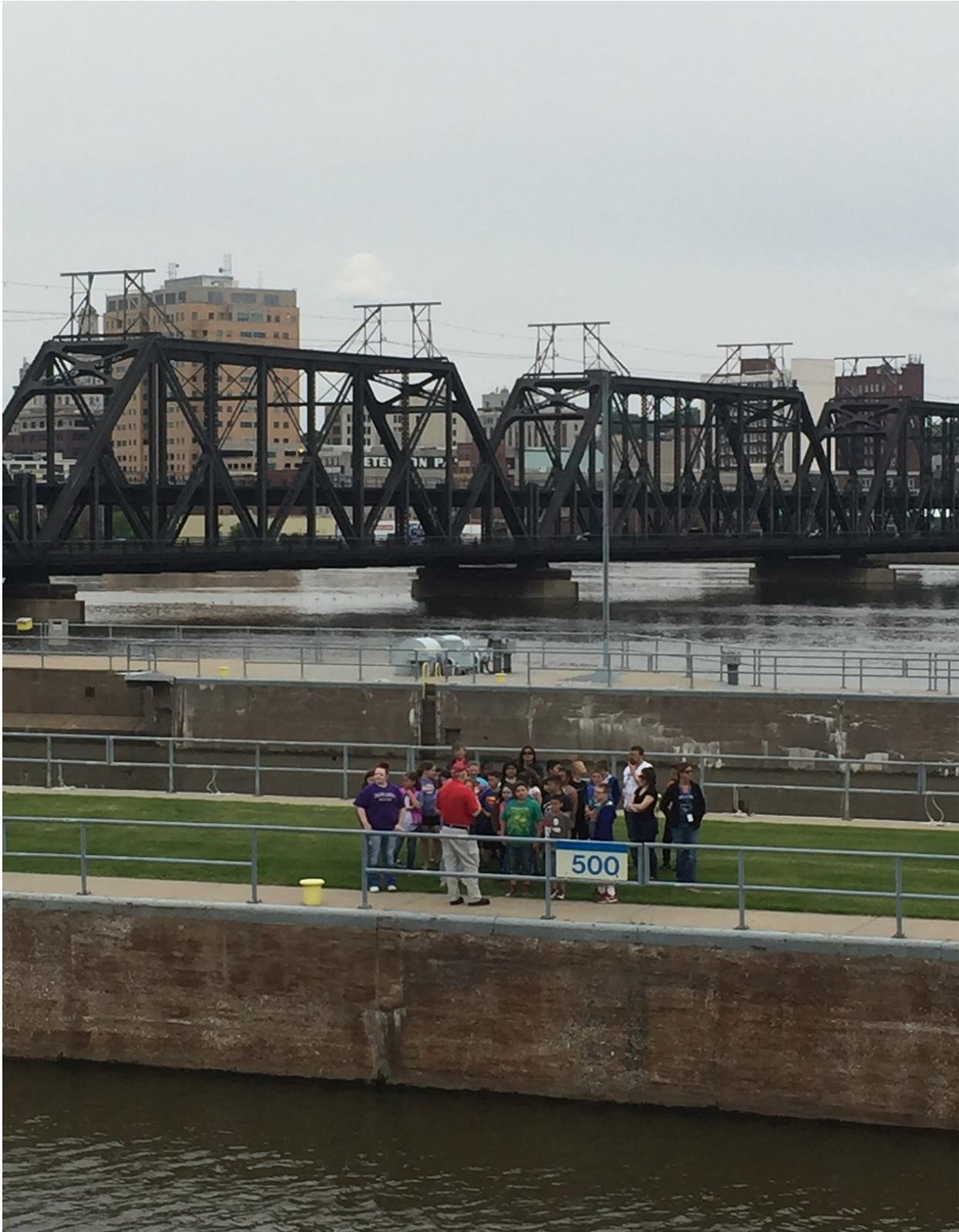
Mr. Gene Sperry has been a volunteer at the Mississippi River Project in Rock Island District since 2015 and during his time, Mr. Sperry has volunteered more than 1,300 hours (valued at approximately \$31,000) at the Mississippi River Visitor Center at Lock and Dam 15. Mr. Sperry's volunteer contributions include supporting the Park Ranger staff with managing the visitor center, providing interpretative outreach programs to various stakeholders and school groups, and minor maintenance around the facility. Mr. Sperry conducts excellent Lock and Dam and Clock Tower tours throughout the busy recreation season while representing USACE at several special events throughout the year including the Quad Cities Camping Show, Quad Cities Sportsman and Outdoor Show, and Quad Cities Bald Eagle Days. Mr. Sperry provided interpretative programming on the M/V Mississippi during the Rock Island District 150th Anniversary Celebration that welcomed approximately 1,000 visitors and stakeholders during the event. Mr. Sperry was a vital resource during a yearlong period in which the two person visitor center staff was down to 50% staffing due to a vacancy; his willingness to volunteer additional hours allowed the Mississippi River Project staff to meet obligations such as special events and outreach school programs instead of canceling due to limited resources. Also during that period of time, Mr. Sperry took on the responsibility to cover the visitor center alone while the Park Ranger could take use or lose annual leave prior to the end of the leave season. Mr. Sperry has been and continues to be a selfless volunteer that has become a great asset to the overall success to the Mississippi River Project's Recreation Program.



Gene volunteering on M/V Mississippi during the Rock Island District 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



Gene providing water safety information at one of our many special event booths.



Gene providing one of his excellent lock and dam tours to a local school group.



Gene receiving his Volunteer Excellence Coin from MAJ Rachel Honderd, Deputy Commander, Rock Island District



Gene receiving The Corps Foundation's Volunteer Excellence Letter from Kelly Thomas, Chief of Natural Resources, Mississippi River Project and MAJ Rachel Hondred, Deputy Commander, Rock Island District