

The AHTD

CENTERLINE

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 6 • JUNE 24, 1999

Highway Commission To Issue Bonds To Finance Interstate Improvements

For the first time in over 50 years, the Highway Commission will be issuing bonds to help pay for roadwork. On June 15, the citizens of Arkansas went to the polls and overwhelmingly voted to allow the Commission to issue bonds to speed up improvements to our state's Interstate highways.

The Commission will be utilizing a new bond financing concept known as GARVEE bonds. GARVEE is an acronym for Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle. GARVEE bonds will allow the Commission to use future federal funds to help retire the bond debt.

The Federal Highway Administration created the GARVEE concept recently as an innovative financing tool to help states fund large-scale highway programs. Prior to the creation of GARVEE bonds, states could not use federal funds to pay off bonds.

Under the plan outlined by the Commission, selling up to \$575 million in bonds will help pay for about \$785 million in Interstate improvements over the next 4-5 years. The bonds will have a 10-year maturity date and will be paid off using a combination of future federal funds specified by the Commission, the required state matching funds, and the proceeds from a phased-in 4-cent increase in the diesel tax.

"Getting these projects designed and constructed in the timeframe established will be a big challenge for the Department," commented AHTD Director Dan Flowers. "But I'm confident our employees will be up to the task. This is an excellent opportunity for us to put our best foot forward by providing improvements the citizens want and deserve in a short period of time."

Retirement Now Available at 28 Years

For several years, the Department has offered full retirement benefits to individuals who accumulate 30 years of service, regardless of their age. Act 1325 of 1999 gave the AHTD Retirement Board the option of reducing the time factor to 28 years of service. This is commonly referred to as a "28 and out" retirement plan.

On April 26, the Retirement Board adopted the provisions of Act 1325. Following appropriate review by the Joint Legislative Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs, the "28 and out" provision will become effective for AHTD employees July 1, 1999.

Other age and length of service requirements of the AHTD Retirement System are not affected by this change. Also, employee participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) is not affected at this time.

Commission Authorizes 2.8% Pay Raises

The Highway Commission has authorized a 2.8 percent salary increase for all AHTD employees who receive a satisfactory recommendation from their supervisor. The increase will take effect with the pay period beginning July 1, 1999 and will be reflected in the July 22 paycheck. A new AHTD Salary Schedule is included in this newsletter.

Arkansas Highways Magazine Deadline

The copy and picture deadline for the Fall 1999 issue of *Arkansas Highways* is Wednesday, July 28, 1999.

This issue will include high school and college graduates of AHTD employees. With submission of graduate photographs, please include the

graduate's full name, high school or college, AHTD employee parent's name, and division or district that the parent works in. Send graduate pictures and information to the appropriate division or district magazine reporter before the deadline date.



In FALL 1999 Issue

For more information contact the Public Affairs Office at 501-569-2573.

Catastrophic Leave Reminder

The Catastrophic Leave Policy was revised May 21, 1998. This revision requires employees requesting catastrophic leave to have donated a minimum of two days per year to the

bank and to have on file a Participation Agreement Form. ***This is a reminder*** that a donation of two days must be made per year in order to be eligible for catastrophic leave.

Questions should be directed to Carol Ward in the Human Resources Division at 501-569-2296.

News Media Inquiries

Members of the news media often contact employees requesting information. It is important that any information fur-

nished to the media be accurate. Many of these inquiries are routine and can be handled by appropriate division or district personnel. However, if information to the media is provided by the division or district, it is necessary to inform the Public Affairs Of-

fice at 501-569-2227 immediately. If you believe Public Affairs should handle the inquiry, advise the media representative that you will forward the request to Public Affairs and someone will contact them as soon as possible.

The AHTD CENTERLINE

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

HERBY BRANSCUM, JR., CHAIRMAN
JOHN "M" LIPTON, VICE CHAIRMAN
J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD
MARY P. "PRISSY" HICKERSON
JONATHAN BARNETT

DAN FLOWERS
DIRECTOR OF
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

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INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY



Monday, July 5, 1999 is a state holiday for Highway and Transportation Department employees in observance of Independence Day, July 4.

Work will be suspended statewide other than for emergencies and to provide essential services.

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department 1999 Equipment Operators' Roadeo

The ninth annual Equipment Operators' Roadeo was held June 10 at the Department's Central Shops in Little Rock. Over 225 Department employees and family members attended this year's event.

The Human Resources Division was responsible for the organization and implementation of the day's activities. The Roadeo competition takes place in three phases beginning with each crew selecting up to four representatives to compete in various events. The semifinals are then held at the District Headquarters and Central Shop Complex with first-place winners earning the right to participate in the state finals in Little Rock.

Competition categories include: single axle dump truck, tandem axle dump truck, tractor truck/lowboy, tractor/mower, backhoe and motor patrol. Defending state champions

are also invited to participate in the state finals.

This year's team championship was won by District 4 with the most exciting category being the backhoe competition. Out of 11 contestants, 6 recorded perfect scores with only 14/100's of a second separating the top three.



District 4 Engineer Harold Beaver (left) and Highway Commissioner Jonathan Barnett accepting the team trophy

DISTRICT 4 1999 TEAM CHAMPION



Chief Engineer Bob Walters (left) with District 4 team winners (left to right): George Lee, Joe Showl, Brandon Jones, District Engineer Harold Beaver, Fred Ridenhour, Lionel Elder, Mike Schmalz, Margaret Byers

1999 STATEWIDE ROADEO WINNERS



TRACTOR/MOWER

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; David Grice, District 7, 3rd place; Ashley Hale, District 9, 3rd place; Randy Rector, District 5, 2nd place; Fred Ridenhour, District 4, 1st place



TRACTOR/LOWBOY

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Tommy Jackson, District 9, 3rd place; Harold Mullins, District 1, 2nd place; Mike Schmalz, District 4, 1st place



SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Terry Trotter, District 3, 3rd place; Kenny Howard, District 8, 2nd place; Jerry Smith, District 7, 1st place



TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Larry Wilson, District 8, 3rd place; Lionel Elder, District 4, 2nd place; Mike Purtzer, District 3, 1st place



MOTOR PATROL

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Joey McClanahan, District 1, 3rd place; Kenny Riley, District 9, 2nd place; William Hickman, District 7, 1st place



BACKHOE

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Brandon Jones, District 4, 3rd place; Kenny Riley, District 9, 2nd place; David Morton, District 3, 1st place

1999 STATEWIDE ROADEO FIRST-PLACE WINNERS



TRACTOR/MOWER

L-R: Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton, Director Dan Flowers and Fred Ridenhour of District 4



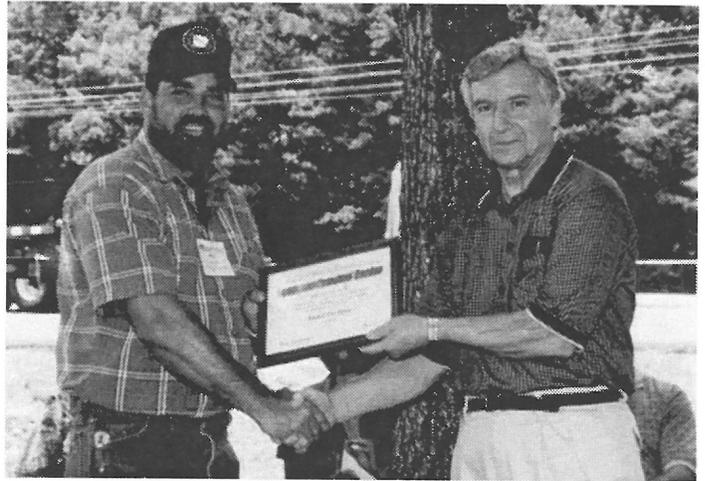
TRACTOR/LOWBOY

L-R: Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton, Director Dan Flowers and Mike Schmalz of District 4



SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK

L-R: Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton, Director Dan Flowers and Jerry Smith of District 7



TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK

Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton, right, and Mike Purtzer of District 3



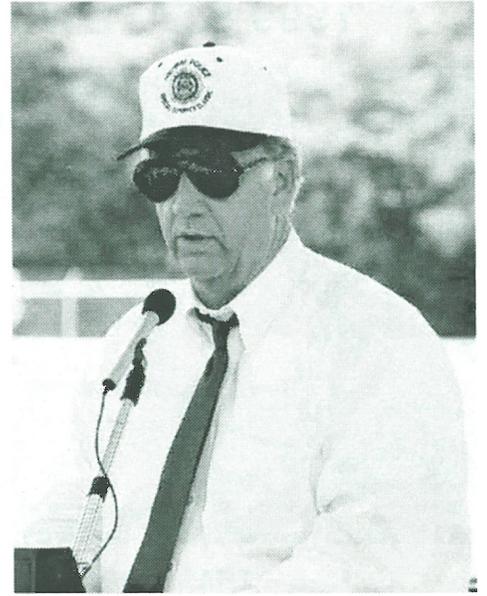
MOTOR PATROL

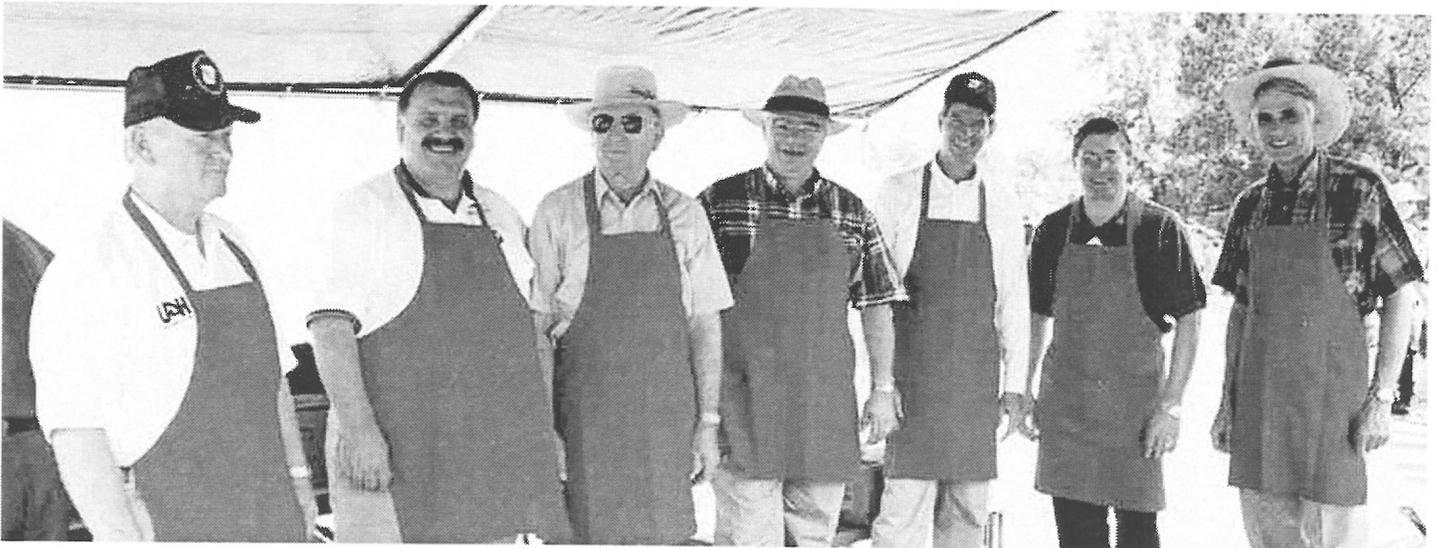
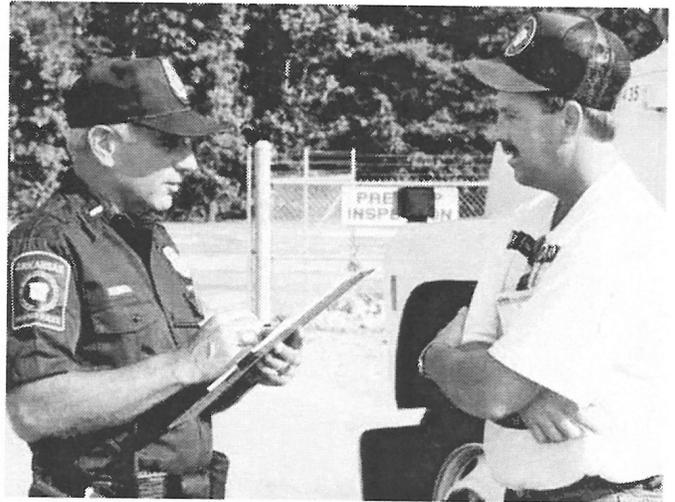
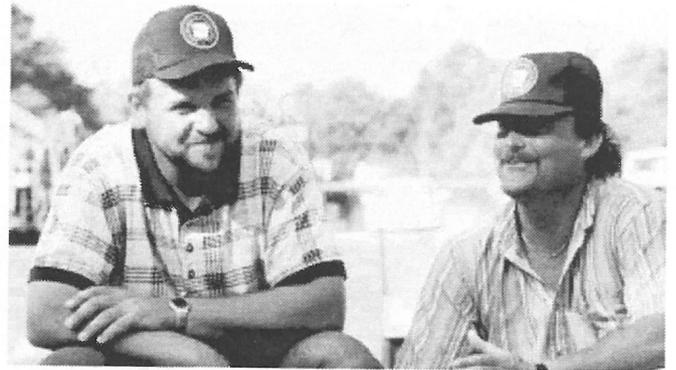
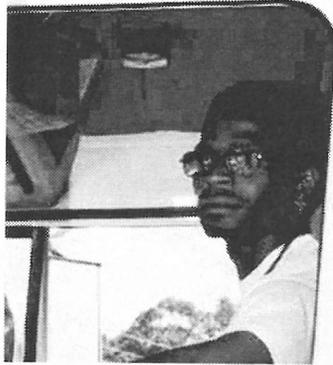
L-R: Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton, Director Dan Flowers and William Hickman of District 7

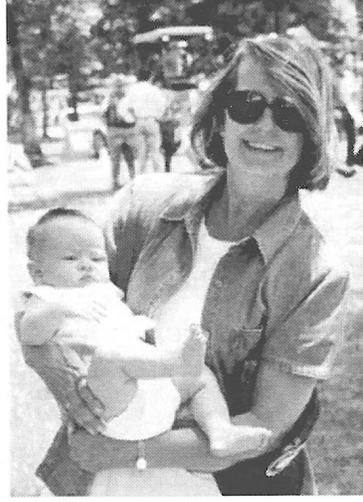


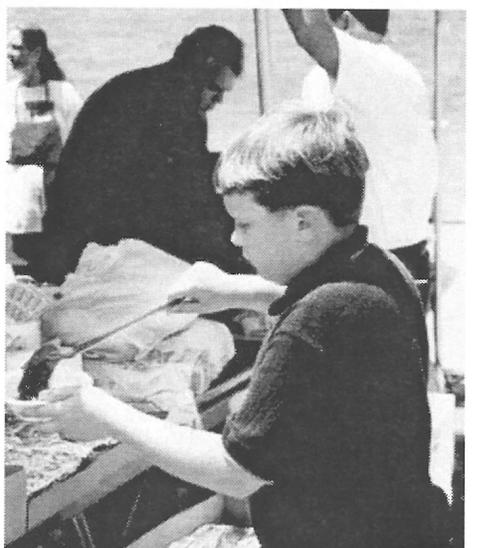
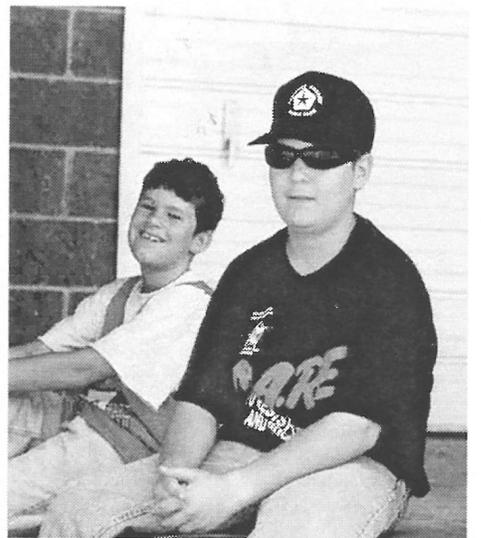
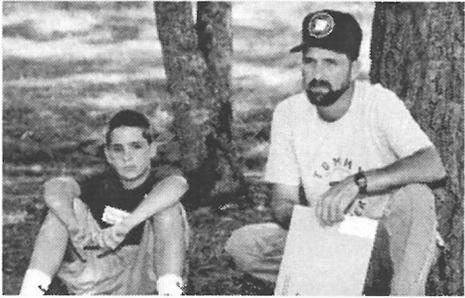
BACKHOE

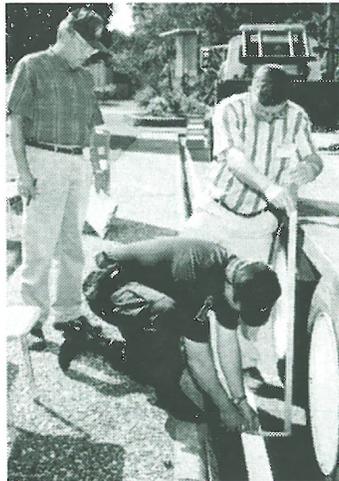
Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton, right, and David Morton of District 3











AHTD SALARY SCHEDULE

Effective 7-1-1999

Level	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8
I	412.00 10,712.00	522.00 13,572.00	558.00 14,508.00	604.00 15,704.00	649.00 16,874.00	697.00 18,122.00	753.00 19,578.00	775.00 20,150.00
II	525.00 13,650.00	585.00 15,210.00	612.00 15,912.00	658.00 17,108.00	710.00 18,460.00	757.00 19,682.00	817.00 21,242.00	842.00 21,892.00
III	551.00 14,326.00	618.00 16,068.00	653.00 16,978.00	702.00 18,252.00	750.00 19,500.00	803.00 20,878.00	858.00 22,308.00	927.00 24,102.00
IV	609.00 15,834.00	687.00 17,862.00	727.00 18,902.00	778.00 20,228.00	831.00 21,606.00	891.00 23,166.00	949.00 24,674.00	1,016.00 26,416.00
V	672.00 17,472.00	761.00 19,786.00	805.00 20,930.00	857.00 22,282.00	915.00 23,790.00	977.00 25,402.00	1,047.00 27,222.00	1,116.00 29,016.00
VI	744.00 19,344.00	837.00 21,762.00	891.00 23,166.00	943.00 24,518.00	1,009.00 26,234.00	1,074.00 27,924.00	1,146.00 29,796.00	1,215.00 31,590.00
VII	821.00 21,346.00	922.00 23,972.00	977.00 25,402.00	1,042.00 27,092.00	1,111.00 28,886.00	1,176.00 30,576.00	1,252.00 32,552.00	1,326.00 34,476.00
VIII	901.00 23,426.00	1,014.00 26,364.00	1,079.00 28,054.00	1,146.00 29,796.00	1,214.00 31,564.00	1,286.00 33,436.00	1,364.00 35,464.00	1,440.00 37,440.00
IX		1,116.00 29,016.00	1,182.00 30,732.00	1,254.00 32,604.00	1,326.00 34,476.00	1,402.00 36,452.00	1,483.00 38,558.00	1,560.00 40,560.00
X		1,214.00 31,564.00	1,289.00 33,514.00	1,363.00 35,438.00	1,438.00 37,388.00	1,523.00 39,598.00	1,607.00 41,782.00	1,685.00 43,810.00
XI		1,328.00 34,528.00	1,411.00 36,686.00	1,487.00 38,662.00	1,567.00 40,742.00	1,650.00 42,900.00	1,743.00 45,318.00	1,825.00 47,450.00
XII		1,442.00 37,492.00	1,530.00 39,780.00	1,609.00 41,834.00	1,691.00 43,966.00	1,785.00 46,410.00	1,879.00 48,854.00	1,952.00 50,752.00
XIII		1,565.00 40,690.00	1,665.00 43,290.00	1,748.00 45,448.00	1,833.00 47,658.00	1,924.00 50,024.00	2,025.00 52,650.00	2,089.00 54,314.00
XIV		1,691.00 43,966.00	1,796.00 46,696.00	1,885.00 49,010.00	1,972.00 51,272.00	2,071.00 53,846.00	2,169.00 56,394.00	2,236.00 58,136.00
XV		1,826.00 47,476.00	1,938.00 50,388.00	2,027.00 52,702.00	2,118.00 55,068.00	2,218.00 57,668.00	2,320.00 60,320.00	2,387.00 62,062.00
XVI		1,961.00 50,986.00	2,083.00 54,158.00	2,176.00 56,576.00	2,272.00 59,072.00	2,366.00 61,516.00	2,478.00 64,428.00	2,533.00 65,858.00
XVII		2,107.00 54,782.00	2,235.00 58,110.00	2,327.00 60,502.00	2,425.00 63,050.00	2,529.00 65,754.00	2,634.00 68,484.00	2,684.00 69,784.00
XVIII		2,255.00 58,630.00	2,392.00 62,192.00	2,486.00 64,636.00	2,583.00 67,158.00	2,695.00 70,070.00	2,801.00 72,826.00	2,839.00 73,814.00
XIX		2,503.00 65,078.00	2,597.00 67,522.00	2,699.00 70,174.00	2,799.00 72,774.00	2,908.00 75,608.00	2,935.00 76,310.00	
XX		2,683.00 69,758.00	2,780.00 72,280.00	2,882.00 74,932.00	2,987.00 77,662.00	3,001.00 78,026.00		

AHTD PEOPLE



MAY 1999

NEW EMPLOYEES

Human Resources

Mary Morton, Office Administrative Assistant

Maintenance

Joseph Pierson, Single Axle Truck Driver

District 1

Lorna Miller, General Laborer; **John Crews**, Single Axle Truck Driver

District 3

Michael McKinnon, Single Axle Truck Driver

District 6

Zachary Hickey, **Melvin Collins**, **James Honeycutt**, **Kevin Redd**, General Laborers

District 8

Debbie Cole, **Lesia Reeves**, General Laborers

District 9

Sherry Moore, Skill Trades Trainee

District 10

Christopher Kelly, General Laborer

PROMOTIONS

Computer Services

Paul Dowdy, User Support Analyst

Highway Police

Todd Wetzel, First Lieutenant

District 1

Terry Harris, Sign Erector; **Juanita Tilghman**, Maintenance Aide I; **Charles Wallace**, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator

District 2

Mary Callaway, Construction Aide II; **Karen Davis**, Field Clerk II; **Michael Davis**, Construction Aide II

District 3

Chad Hodges, Bridge Repairer I; **Christopher Knowles**, Inspector

District 4

Ethan Gordon, Rest Area Attendant; **Billy Nichols**, Station Attendant II; **Kenneth Tucker**, Crew Leader; **William Weidman**, Welder

District 6

James Hogan, Construction Aide II

District 7

Lori Stinnett, Construction Aide I; **Evandrew Washington**, Construction Aide III

District 8

Paul Athey, Senior Mechanic; **Angela Garner**, **Connie Miller**, Single Axle Truck Drivers; **Jimmy Jackson**, Station Attendant

District 10

Rick Hale, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator

SERVICE

35 Years

Jimmy Parker, D-7 Backhoe/Front End Operator

30 Years

Phil McConnell, Roadway Design Division Head; **James Steele**, D-2 Single Axle Truck Driver; **Junior Priddy**, D-4 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; **Mike Schmalz**, D-4 Crew Leader; **Robert Kendrick**, D-4 Finish Carpenter; **Odis Smith**, D-4 Welder; **Carl Thompson**, D-6 Single Axle Truck Driver; **Gary Jordan**, D-8 Single Axle Truck Driver; **Donnie Walker**, D-9 Ferry Boat Pilot; **John Porter**, D-10 Permit Officer

25 Years

John Dailey, Computer Services Technical Coordinator; **Carolyn Johnson**, Public Affairs Specialist; **Rex Boothe**, Right of Way Relocation Coordinator; **Philip Norman**, D-1 Inspector; **Thomas Smith**, D-2 Guard; **Willis Morehead**, D-5 Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; **Herman Elder**, D-6 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; **James Johnston**, D-8 Maint. Job Superintendent; **William Tramel**, D-8 Maint. Aide I; **James Rye**, D-8 Distributor Operator; **Larry Wheeler**, D-9 Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; **James Glisson, Jr.**, D-9 Maint. Aide II; **Everett Burr**, D-9 Multi-Axle Truck Driver; **Edward Croy**, D-10 Crew Leader; **Aubrey Beasley**, D-10 Crew Leader

20 Years

David Plugge, Senior Bridge Design Engineer; **Ricky Cranford**, P&R Public Transportation Coordinator; **Jesse Davis**, D-1 Storeroom Assistant II; **John Cowen**, D-2 Motor Patrol Operator; **Willy Smith**, D-2 Multi-Axle Truck Driver; **Ben Novak**, D-2 Inspector; **Donald Pergeson**, D-4 Maint. Aide II; **William Roberts**, D-4 Area Maint. Supervisor; **Roger Elder**, D-6 Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; **Danny Burnett**, D-6 Adv. Const. Field Engineer; **Ronnie Henderson**, D-8 Single Axle Truck Driver; **Vernon Erwin**, D-10 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator

15 Years

Raymond Davis, AHP Sergeant; **Jerry Johnson**, AHP Motor Carrier Safety Inspector; **Neal Duke, Jr.**, AHP 2nd Lieutenant; **Ronnie Eckhardt**, Maint. Facilities Management Electrician; **Mimi Nation**, P&R Admin. Assistant I; **Karen Dickerson**, P&R Data

Collection Technician; **Brooks Booher**, Roadway Design Staff Hydraulics Engineer; **Tammy Goshien**, P&C Office Admin. Assistant V; **Jeffrey Collier**, D-1 Crew Leader; **Ronnie Rabeneck**, D-2 Maint. Aide I; **Tim Tolleson**, D-3 Area Hdqtrs. Attendant; **Steven White**, D-4 Crew Leader; **Russell Hightower**, D-5 Maint. Aide II; **Howard Hairston**, D-6 Distributor Operator; **Steven Benson**, D-10 Maint. Aide II; **Barbara Parks**, D-10 Personnel Clerk

10 Years

Sharlot Mixon, AHP Patrol Officer First Class; **Bobby Hayes**, AHP Permit Technician; **Luther Davis**, D-1 Senior Mechanic; **Kirk Chidester**, D-2 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; **Maurice Jones**, D-2 Distributor/Roller Operator; **Ernie Sorrells**, D-3 Crew Leader; **Joe Dorman**, D-3 Maint. Aide II; **Hesterly Jones**, D-3 Senior Mechanic; **Paul Stanley**, D-3 Rest Area Attendant; **Billy Dotson**, D-4 Motor Patrol Operator; **Ronald Kinsworthy**, D-4 Multi-Axle Truck Driver; **Robert Arguello**, D-6 Const. Field Engineer II; **Gregory Loomis**, D-7 Resident Office Technician; **Sherri Taylor**, D-9 Const. Aide II; **Rickey Clark**, D-9 Const. Materials Inspector; **Thomas Taylor**, D-9 Maint. Aide II; **Elvis Richmond**, D-10 Const. Aide I

5 Years

James Hicks, Jr., Computer Services Apps. Analyst/Programmer I; **Roger Johnson**, D-1 Bridge Inspector Helper; **Otis Jones**, D-2 Dozer Operator/Finish; **Joe Daniels, Jr.**, D-3 Area Hdqtrs. Attendant; **James Kendrick**, D-4 Welder; **Noel Russell**, D-5 Multi-Axle Truck Driver; **James Nunnery**, D-10 Multi-Axle Truck Driver; **Lisa Wilson**, D-10 Area Hdqtrs. Attendant; **Christopher Clifford**, D-10 Crane Operator

RETIREMENTS

Joseph Bentz, Statewide Heavy Bridge Inspector, retired May 17 with 21+ years service

Edward Pridgeon, D-2 Area Maintenance Supervisor, retired May 11 with 28+ years service

Dawsy Poindexter, D-3 Maintenance Aide II, retired May 11 with 34+ years service

Robert Marsh, D-4 Station Attendant II, retired May 11 with 16+ years service

Naomi German, D-10 Storeroom Supervisor, retired May 5 with 31+ years service

Grady Davis, D-10 Maintenance Aide I, retired May 27 with 21 years service