



# Center Line

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department • April 2007

**Donald Embry  
Celebrates**

**50  
YEARS**

**with the AHTD**



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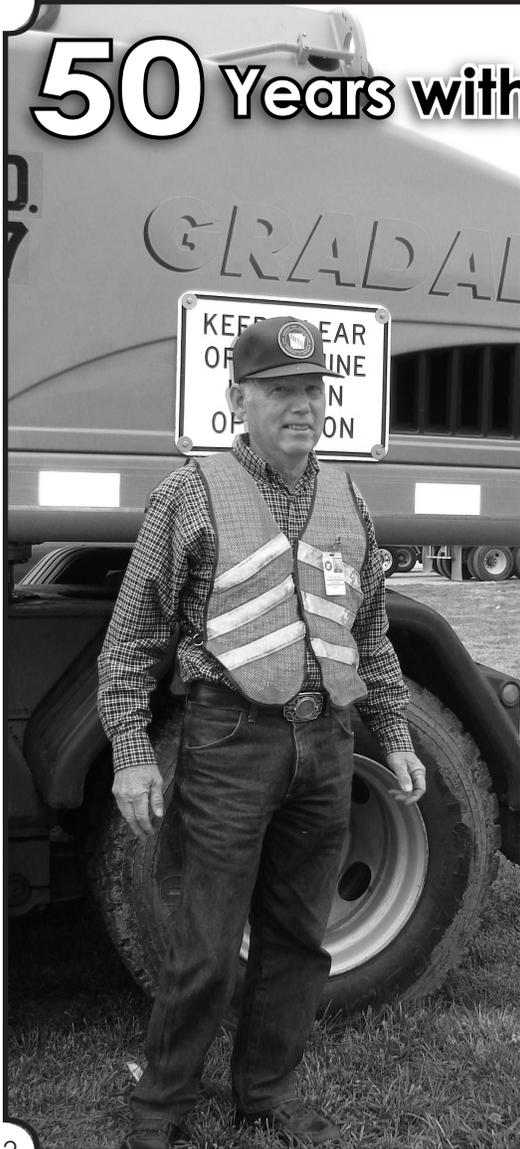
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# 2007 EQUIPMENT OPERATORS ROADEO SEMI-FINALS

		Tractor/ Lowboy	Tandem Axle Dump Truck	Single Axle Dump Truck	Tractor/ Mower	Backhoe	Motor Patrol
<b>DISTRICT TWO</b> March 15, 2007	1ST PLACE	John Harvey	Jon Paul Anderton	James Dickson	Clarence Edwards	Stacey Stepp	Travis Singleton
	2ND PLACE	Tim Cagle	Shirley Norman	Donnie Burns	Edward Kirkham	Edward Kirkham	Wallace Simmons
	3RD PLACE	Sidney Fitzpatrick	Keith Etue	Clayton Shackelford	Chris Hendricks	Jerry Cleveland	David Alverson
<b>DISTRICT SEVEN</b> March 22, 2007	1ST PLACE	Jeremy Cain	Wayne Ezell	Gilbert Niemeir	David Grice	Jerry Purifoy	William Hickman
	2ND PLACE	Bill Wilkerson	Lonnie Teague	Nathan Boyd	Gary Clark	Trent Vanderzwaln	Euclid Elliott
	3RD PLACE	Raymond Buzbee	Dennis Lindsey	Jerry Langley	Mickey Davis	Dennis Garlington	Jeff Turner
<b>DISTRICT ONE</b> March 29, 2007	1ST PLACE	Brad Swaite	Steve Roberts	Wayne Hamilton	Jason Mitchell	Michael Howard	Robert Gray
	2ND PLACE	Roy Bruce	Percy Word	Aaron Hicks	Earnest Rose	Manford Ferrell	Jerry Mitchell
	3RD PLACE	Mike Henderson	Dena Robison	Stanley Wheeler	Terell Lyons	Camron Tucker	William Ewing



## 50 Years with the AHTD to Culminate in June



When it comes to the AHTD employee with the highest number of years spent with the Highway and Transportation Department, Donald Embry's name is at the top of the list.

On June 1st of this year, Embry will celebrate 50 years with the Department.

When Donald was hired by the AHTD in 1957, Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House, *The Danny Thomas Show* was the most popular show on television and the Milwaukee Braves won the World Series.

Embry began his AHTD career on the mowing crew in District Three making \$1.00 an hour. He has served as an oiler on a dragline, a dragline operator and as an equipment Ill operator. Today, he is still working in District Three, as a Hydraulic Excavator Operator-Finish.

"As I look back over the years, I think of the many places I have been and the many people I have met," says Embry.

"There are some events that stand out as well, such as the year the Red River flooded and working the snow and ice storms back in 2000."

"When I began working for the Department, we were removing the one-lane wooden bridges and replacing them with steel and concrete structures," Embry recalls. "We had very little equipment and our dump trucks at the time didn't even have heaters."

After 50 years of service, Embry will be retiring in June. He and his wife Joann look forward to his retirement so he can spend more time with his three grandchildren – Heather, Aaron and Paige.

"I will miss everyone but I am looking forward to this next chapter in my life," Embry adds. "I would advise anyone just starting out to find the job that you like, stick with it and do your work to the best of your ability."

Congratulations, Donald, on 50 years of service!

# News Conference Promotes Work Zone Safety



Commission Chairman Jonathan Barnett addresses the crowd at the Work Zone Safety Week news conference on a new section of Highway 67/167.

Representatives from the construction industry gathered on Highway 67/167 in Sherwood on April 5th to promote this year's National Work Zone Awareness Week.

The theme for 2007's campaign is "Signs of Change" and the improvements taking place on Highway 67/167 in the area provided a perfect backdrop.

The scope of the work in the area is to reconstruct the existing main lanes and add a lane in each direction, creating a six-lane highway with a paved median and median barrier wall. The project includes 1.4 miles in the vicinity of McCain Boulevard in North Little Rock and approximately two miles north of Wildwood to Kiehl Avenue in Sherwood. Estimated completion on the

project is summer of 2008.

"This section of Highway 67/167 is one of the more popular routes as people leave the Little Rock area to head to the lakes around Heber Springs," stated Highway Commission Chairman Jonathan Barnett. "With this construction, there couldn't be a more appropriate area to emphasize work zone safety."

There were 1,074 work zone fatalities in the U.S. in 2005. That figure compares with 1,068 in 2004 and 1,028 in 2003.

"As the weather turns warmer and more motorists are on our highways, let's remember that we are all responsible for driving safely through work zone areas," stated AHTD Director Dan Flowers.

## The Staff Minute



**Employee:** Tommy Halbert, Maintenance Crew Leader, District 1

**Length of service:** I have been with the Department since June of 1982, almost twenty-five years.

**Job Duties:** My job duties include assisting my supervisor in any way possible to help guide and direct the Maintenance Crew to complete maintenance job functions in a safe and timely manner. The Maintenance Crew lays asphalt and maintains road shoulders for the entire District 1 area.

**Favorite part of the job:** My favorite part of the job would be the good working relationship with the people on my crew and the crew members of the other counties wherever the job assignment might be.

**Background:** I began working for the Department shortly after graduating from

Palestine High School in May of 1982. I was a General Laborer on the St. Francis County Crew. The following year, I was promoted to Single Axle Truck Driver/Mower Operator. My next promotion was to Backhoe/Front End loader Operator. I then became Vegetation Controller, followed by Lead Person in 1988. For the past twelve years, I have been the Crew Leader on the District Maintenance Crew.

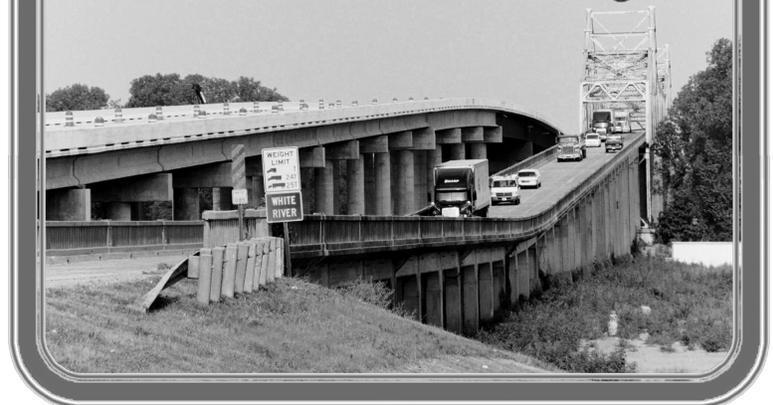
**Family:** My wife, Tammy, and I have been married for twenty-five years. We have two wonderful children. Ryan is 19 and attends East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City. Our daughter, Tyler, is 17 and is a junior at Palestine-Wheatley High School.

**Hobbies/Interests:** I enjoy spending time with my family and also like hunting and fishing.

## Where Is This? See answer at bottom of last page.



## Highway History



The new White River Bridge on Highway 64 at Augusta (shown on the left) was officially opened to traffic August 2, 2001, and the old bridge was later removed.



District 8: Johnna & Eric Ryan were married December 15th. Johnna is the daughter of Juan Coronado, Mechanic.



Arkansas Highway Police: Braxton Dean Burks, the first grandchild of Chief Ron Burks, was born January 27th.



District 10: Rylee Kala Ryan, granddaughter of Donnie McKinney, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, recently celebrated her first birthday.



Legal: Breanna Marie, 13, holds her newborn brother Braxton Anthony, born December 23rd. They are the children of Kim Jewell, Office Administrative Assistant V.



Heavy Bridge Maintenance: Amy Parker Smith, daughter of Raymond Parker, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supervisor, got married Feb 14th to Brandon Smith in Jamaica.



District 5: Laney Elizabeth Brooklyn Brackett, daughter of Sara Brackett, Fuel Clerk, was born November 27th.



District 3: Michael Chad Burke, son of Larry Burke, Area Headquarters Attendant, bagged his limit on his first duck hunt.



District 1: Receiving their 5-year service awards were (l. to r.) Anthony Flex, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; Linda Cummings, Single Axle Truck Driver; Julius Myers, Jr., Maintenance Aide I; Herbert Wiley, Rest Area Attendant; and Cameron Tucker, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator.



District 1: Receiving their 15-year service awards were (l. to r.) Jimmy Pulley, Crew Leader, and Stanley Bennett, Shop Supervisor.



District 1: Receiving their 20-year service awards were (l. to r.) Wayne Hamilton, Senior Mechanic; Rickey Simpson, Area Headquarters Attendant; and Gary Fendley, Maintenance Aide II.



Maintenance: (l. to r.) Charles Manning, Stripper Helper, receives his 5-year service award from Ed Marlin, Striping Superintendent.



District 3: (l. to r.) Don Donaldson, District Engineer, presents Diane Willmon, District Permit Officer, with her 20-year service award.



Planning & Research: (l. to r.) Alan Meadors, Division Head, presents Virginia Porta, Staff Planning Engineer, with her 20-year service award and Knighten Starnes, Administrative Analyst, with his 10-year service award.



District 3: (l. to r.) Nick Littrell, Distributor Roller Operator, receives his 5-year service award from District Maintenance Engineer Kenny Bennett.



Planning & Research: (l. to r.) Alan Meadors, Division Head, presents to Bill Ryan, Railroad Crossing Coordinator, his 20-year service award.



District 9: (l. to r.) JaNell Ware, District Bookkeeper, receives her 15-year service award from Tammy Phillips, District Office Manager.



District 9: (l. to r.) Mike Brasel, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents to Dale Leonard, Area Headquarters Attendant, his 15-year service award.



District 1: Jeff Collier, Area Maintenance Supervisor (middle) presents 10-year service awards to (l. to r.) Gerry Washington, Maintenance Aide II; and Chris Crite Maintenance Aide I.



District 9: (l. to r.) Mike Brasel, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents to Charlie Blevins, Motor Patrol Operator - Finish, his 30-year service award.



District 9: (l. to r.) Denton James, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, receives his 10-year service award from Ricky Sattler, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Materials Division: (l. to r.) Mike Limbird, Staff Materials Engineer, presents Kenyada Sain, Materials Technician II, her 5-year service award with her supervisor Ellie Watson, Laboratory Coordinator.



District 9: (l. to r.) Mike Brasel, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents to Roy Bryant, Backhoe/Front End Loader, his 5-year service award.



## NEW EMPLOYEES

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Brian Bynum, Elec. Pl. & Mech. Repairer

### MAINTENANCE

Kenneth Leopard, Sign Maker I

### SURVEYS

Thomas Coe, Surveys Helper  
Michael Taylor, Surveys Helper  
Keith West, Surveys Helper

### DISTRICT 2

Terri Sheets, General Laborer, Arkansas  
Eric Utsey, General Laborer, Arkansas

### DISTRICT 3

Roy Box, Single Axle Truck Driver, Lafayette

### DISTRICT 4

Cassie Rongey, General Laborer

### DISTRICT 6

Lloyd Abbott, Single Axle Truck Driver, Pulaski  
Michael Bryant, Single Axle Truck Dr., Pulaski  
Henry Land, Jr., Single Axle Truck Dr., Pulaski

### DISTRICT 9

Rick Cline, Single Axle Truck Driver, Madison

### DISTRICT 10

Stephonye Collins, Gen. Laborer, Mississippi  
William Perkins, General Laborer, Mississippi  
Dwight Thomas, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Mississippi

## PROMOTIONS

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE**  
Chrissy Williams, Personnel Clerk

### COMPUTER SERVICES

Mitchell Katayama, Applications Analyst III  
Scott King, Apps Analyst/Programmer V  
Raymond Leung, Automation Engineer III  
Timothy Martin, Apps. Analyst/Programmer V

### CONSTRUCTION

Steve Peeples, Civil Engineer VI

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Jeff Ingram, Beautification Coord. III

### FISCAL SERVICES

Kera Crowder, Retirement Officer

### MAINTENANCE

Mark Nichols, Advanced Traffic Engineer

### MATERIALS

Celestia Howard, District Materials Supervisor

### PLANNING & RESEARCH

Lakela Jackson, Advanced Research Assistant  
Loretta McEntire, Data Collection Technician

### PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS

Ashala Doster, Office Admn. Asst. III

### RIGHT OF WAY

Joel Clark, Administrative Assistant I

### DISTRICT 1

Jimmy Cansler, Backh./FEL Opr, Woodruff  
Taylor McDaniel, Jr., Senior Mechanic  
Liburn Morelock, Multi-Axle Truck Driver  
Donald Nelson, Distributor Operator

### DISTRICT 2

Kenneth Gibbs, Multi-Axle Truck Driver  
Bobby King, Roller Operator  
Wallace Simmons, Motor Patrol Op., Arkansas  
Edgar Smith, Multi-Axle Truck Driver

### DISTRICT 3

Jeff Bain, Single Axle Truck Driver, Nevada  
Demario Haynes, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Hempstead  
Larry Hovarter, Maintenance Aide II, Lafayette

### DISTRICT 4

Deidre Arendall, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Crawford  
Rodney Graham, Backhoe/FEL Op., Washington  
Jerry Howe, Bridge Repairer II  
John Lewis, Single Axle Truck Dr., Washington  
Danny Loyd, Hydraulic Excavator Opr-Fin.  
Robert McEntyre, Bridge Repairer II  
William Nixon, Senior Mechanic  
Charles Pickern, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., Sebastian  
Pamela Smith, Single Axle Tr. Dr., Sebastian

### DISTRICT 5

Thurman Jones, Single Axle Tr. Dr., Cleburne  
Patrick Smith, Construction Helper II, RE 53

### DISTRICT 6

Bart Boswell, Construction Field Engr. II, RE 61  
George Lee, Rest Area Attendant, Prairie  
Derrick Marshall, Lowboy or Float Truck Driver  
David Orr, Maintenance Aide II, Hot Spring  
Therese Yarnold, Storeroom Supervisor

### DISTRICT 7

Euclid Elliott, Crew Leader, Columbia  
James Finks, Motor Patrol Op.-Finish, Ouachita  
David Jarvais, Construction Helper II, RE 73  
Hugh Leamons, Jr., Multi-Axle Truck Dr., Clark  
Kennedy Porchia, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., Ouachita  
Roshar Ross, Single Axle Truck Driver, Dallas  
Kenneth Starr, Multi-Axle Truck Driver

### DISTRICT 8

Paul Burris, Bridge Repairer I  
Kelly Goates, Single Axle Truck Driver, Pope  
James Harris, Motor Patrol Operator, Faulkner  
Dennis James, Const. Project Coord., RE 84  
Dorothy Kendrick, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Yell  
Robert Maxwell, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Perry  
Jimmy McNutt, Street Sweeper Operator

### DISTRICT 9

Britney Burns, Construction Field Engr II, RE 95  
Jeremy Merriman, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., Marion  
Jeffrey Wheeler, District Construction Engr.

### DISTRICT 10

Shante Anderson, Area Hq. Att., Mississippi  
Kathy Chesser, Backhoe/FEL Op., Craighead

## SERVICE AWARDS

### CONSTRUCTION

Jimmy Condrey, Inspector, RE 53, 30 yrs.  
Nathan Edwards, Inspector, RE 55, 15 yrs.  
Leatrice Knight, Inspector, RE 43, 15 yrs.  
John Wilson, Const. Aide III, RE 41, 15 yrs.

### DIRECTOR

Ralph Hall, Assistant to the Director, 35 yrs.

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Phillip Moore, Environmental Scientist II, 15 yrs.

### FISCAL SERVICES

Mike Eden, Sect Head - Reports & Costs, 35 yrs.  
Stephanie Howard, Administrative Aide I, 5 yrs.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Wayne Coleman, Mail Courier, 5 yrs.  
Tamekia Dedner, Office Admn. Asst I, 5 yrs.

### MAINTENANCE

Michael Arellanes, Sign Crew Supervisor, 10 yrs.  
Charles Manning, Stripper Helper, 5 yrs.  
Ralph Rodgers, Sign Maker I, 5 yrs.

### MATERIALS

Wayne Casteel, Concr. & Steel Fab. Engr., 35 yrs.  
Roy Norman, Sr. Const. Mat. Insp., RE 92, 30 yrs.

### PLANNING & RESEARCH

Mark Frazier, Pavement Mgt. Specialist, 30 yrs.  
Greg Nation, Hwy. Perf. & Needs An. II, 15 yrs.

### RIGHT OF WAY

Barry Cruz, Utility Coordinator I, 20 yrs.  
Darrell Hatchett, Relocation Coordinator, 30 yrs.

### ROADWAY DESIGN

Keli Higginbotham, Adv. Design Engineer, 5 yrs.  
James Lee, Advanced Design Engineer, 25 yrs.  
Margaret Middleton, Senior Designer, 20 yrs.

### SURVEYS

Kenneth Cody, Surveys Aide III, 15 yrs.  
Robert Peebles, Surveys Aide III, 5 yrs.

### DISTRICT 1

Chester Allwhite, District Permit Officer, 25 yrs.  
Derender Dallas, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs.  
Joey McClanahan, Motor Patrol Op.-Fin., 20 yrs.

### DISTRICT 2

Donovan Samples, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs.  
Kelly Slater, Sealing Job Superintendent, 25 yrs.

### DISTRICT 3

Paul Gray, Jr., Maintenance Aide I, 5 yrs.  
Patrick Shepard, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs.

### DISTRICT 5

Brenda Taylor, Office Admn. Asst. V, 30 yrs.

### DISTRICT 6

Steven Lane, Maintenance Aide II, 20 yrs.  
Deon Pickens, Bridge Repairer II, 10 yrs.

### DISTRICT 7

James Barkhimer, Dozer Op.-Finish, 30 yrs.  
Richard Hilton, Backhoe/FEL Op., 15 yrs.  
Jackie Thornton, Area Hq. Attendant, 20 yrs.

### DISTRICT 9

Randy Clark, Area Maint. Supervisor, 35 yrs.  
April Fanning, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs.  
Michael Thomas, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 15 yrs.  
Janell Ware, District Bookkeeper, 15 yrs.  
Gary Younger, Area Hq. Attendant, 15 yrs.

### DISTRICT 10

Matthew Larue, Distributor Operator, 10 yrs.

## RETIREMENTS

### BRIDGE

Abram Wylie, Staff Bridge Design Engr., 34+ yrs.

### DISTRICT 1

Ammon Belcher, Bridge Repairer II, 28+ yrs.  
Sylvester Jennings, Jr., Crew Leader, 19+ yrs.

### DISTRICT 2

Joann Graham, Maintenance Aide I, 13+ yrs.

### DISTRICT 3

Jerry Williams, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 27+ yrs.

### DISTRICT 4

Larry Thornburg, Area Maint. Supervisor, 39+ yrs.

### DISTRICT 6

Harry Jobe, Motor Patrol Op.-Finish, 30+ yrs.

### DISTRICT 8

William Watson, Rest Area Attendant, 36+ yrs.

## MEMORIALS

### DISTRICT 1

James Weddington, 3/24/07, Retired

### District 3

Leroy Zachry, 3/23/07, Retired

### District 5

Charles F. Fuller, 3/18/07, Retired

### District 7

Edward P. Carter, 4/6/07, Retired

### District 8

Joe Duvall, 3/15/07, Retired

### District 9

Carroll G. Horton, 4/8/07, Retired

### Maintenance

Jerry Smith, 4/8/07, Retired

## MILITARY DUTY

As of 4/11/07, the AHTD had 14 employees serving active duty in the military. *Dates denote the deployment date.*

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Travis F. Nelson, Jr., Safety Insp. Officer, 5/8/06

### MAINTENANCE

Michael Brown, Senior Traffic Inv., 6/12/06

### MATERIALS

Christopher Wald, Civil Engr. II, 1/3/07

### PLANNING & RESEARCH

Kimberly Sanders, Transp. Planner, 11/29/06

### DISTRICT 1

Ricky L. Benson, Construction Helper II, 7/19/06

### DISTRICT 4

Brandon Bowen, Mechanic, 10/12/06  
Jeremy Bowles, Construction Helper II, 7/13/06  
Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Tr. Driver, 10/3/05

### DISTRICT 6

Shirley Hammett, Area Hq. Att., 7/20/04

### DISTRICT 9

Steven Halsted, Hydraulic Excav. Op.-Fin., 7/3/06  
Eric Jaeger, Maintenance Aide I, 8/30/06

### DISTRICT 10

Kyle Beasley, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, 7/19/06  
Robert Martin, General Laborer, 7/19/06  
Dustin Miller, Bridge Repairer I, 7/19/06



Answer to "Where is This?"  
Highway 23 at Aurora, in  
Madison County.