

AHTD Receives Safety Award for Centerline Rumble Strips

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department received a national award last month for an innovative project that placed rumble strips on the centerline of Highway 7 in north central Arkansas.



(l. to r.) Secretary of Transportation Ray H. LaHood, AHTD Traffic Safety Section Head Jon Waldrip and Roadway Safety Foundation Executive Director Greg Cohen.

The award was presented to the Department by the Roadway Safety Foundation and the Federal Highway Administration during the National Roadway Safety Awards program held in Washington D.C. on November 5th.

Arkansas joined New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington in being recognized for innovation in operations, planning and roadway design to reduce fatalities and injuries on our nation's highways.

"This award ceremony is a good opportunity to shine a light on the nation's most innovative road safety projects and programs that eliminate or sharply reduce highway deaths across the United States," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "We can never stop looking for new and creative ways to make driving and traveling safer."

Because Highway 7 runs through a mountainous area and the Ozark National Forest, many horizontal and vertical curves exist. The highway was shown to have a high frequency of lane departure crashes that involved fatalities and serious injuries. The innovative program installed centerline rumble strips on a 74-mile section of the highway in Pope, Newton and Boone counties. The

total cost of the project was \$59,000 and was completed in just five days.

A before and after crash analysis conducted on the section of highway has shown effective results. The analysis indicated a 41% reduction in all crashes. Further analysis showed a 64% reduction in fatal crashes and a 26% reduction in injury crashes. In particular, head on and opposite direction sideswipe crashes were reduced by 56% during the study periods.

"Safety is always a number one priority for the Department," stated Director Dan Flowers. "Because of the success we have seen in this rumble strip project, we are looking at expanding it to other areas of our highway system."

"The roster of award winners represents the most dynamic and creative highway safety programs, and sets a standard for others to follow," stated Greg Cohen, Executive Director of the Roadway Safety Foundation.

Roadway Safety Award recipients were evaluated on three criteria – innovation, effectiveness, and efficient use of resources. A total of 14 programs from ten states and local jurisdictions, and one national program, received awards. The award recipients were selected from more than 100 entries received.

Love of Sports Brings Rewarding Career

There aren't very many AHTD employees that can say they have played professional football in the National Football League (NFL). Even fewer who can say they have played in a Super Bowl. Terry Nelson has done both.

Terry Nelson is a single axle truck driver for the AHTD in District 7. He's been with the Department since April of 2007. Prior to that, he spent twenty years in the automotive business. But, sports fans would probably be most interested in hearing about Nelson's career years playing football for the Los Angeles Rams and for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Golden Lions. Nelson's football days go back to high school at Peake High in Arkadelphia.

"I played kicker, fullback, defensive end and more in high school," Nelson states. He was a two sport standout in basketball and football, and graduated in 1969.

He excelled as a tight end for the Golden Lions from 1969 to 1973 and played that same position during his professional years in the NFL. Nelson was drafted in the fourth round of the NFL draft in 1973.



"During those years, there were over 20 rounds," Nelson comments.

And what was the biggest difference for Nelson between college ball and pro ball?

"That college homework," he says. "I graduated in four years with a BS degree in Recreation and Sociology. Then, playing pro ball, I was doing something I liked and I got paid to do it," he adds.

Nelson played for eight years in the NFL, all of those years with the Rams. He and his teammates were fortunate enough to make it to the big game after the 1979 season.

"I was the starting tight end for the Rams for Super Bowl XIV. We played the Pittsburgh Steelers. It was a great game but the Rams lost that one 31 to 19."

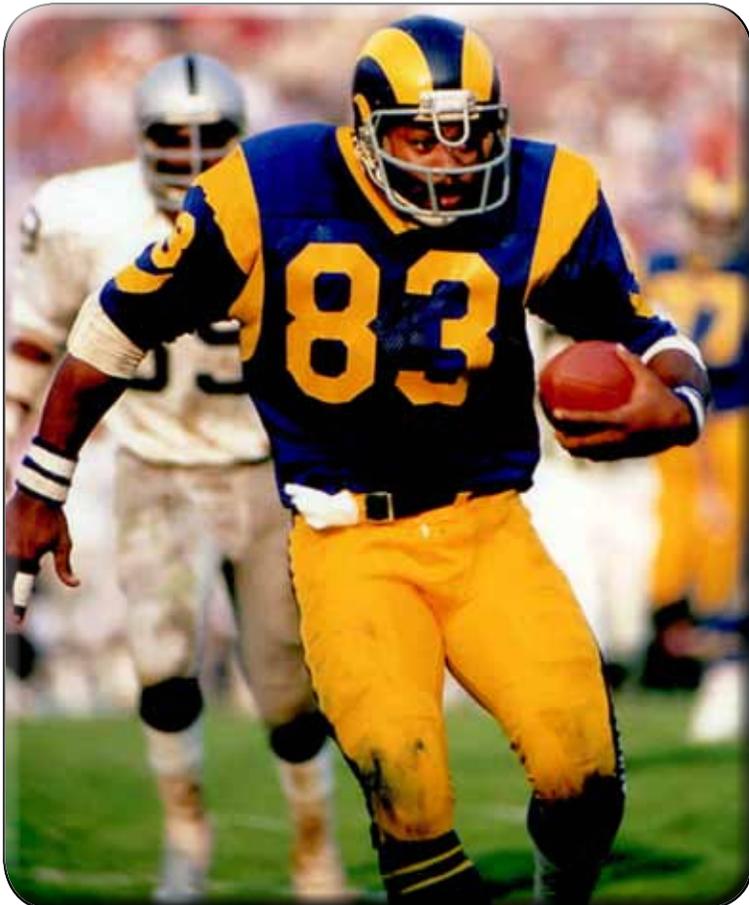
Over his pro career, Nelson shared the field with some of the greatest football players of the 1970s.

"I played along side James Harris, Pat Haden, Ron Jaworski, Joe Namath, Jackie Slater, Fred Dryer, Jack Youngblood, Merlin Olson, Rich Saul, Lawrence McCutherson, John Capellitti, Larry Brooks, Terry Bradshaw, "Mean" Joe Green, Franco Harris, Cliff Harris, Walter Peyton, Wallace Francis, Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Mike Singletary, Kellen Winslow, John Williams, Doug France, Cullen Bryant, Ron Jessie and many others."

"They were all the best at their game," he adds.

When asked what some of his favorite memories were of playing in the pros Nelson commented, "Monday Night Football with Howard Cosell, and playoff games!"

As for living in Los Angeles, "I didn't care for the traffic in L.A. but I loved finding places to ride horses, fish and hunt."



Nelson was born in Arkadelphia. He was one of eight kids in the family.

“I was always a high energy person and loved playing sports.” His favorite sport was basketball and he felt he was best at it.

He married his high school sweetheart, Frances. They are the proud parents of two children, T.J. and Desarae.

Nelson has always been active in the community. He has volunteered his time to the United Way, Special Olympics and coaching Little League sports. When playing pro ball, there was always some charity that he tried to help out.

The Nelsons are members of the Mt. Morriah Baptist Church where Terry is a Trustee and a member of the male chorus. He is also a member of a nonprofit group called “Men United” of Clark County. The group provides mentoring to local youth and work on other community service projects. He is a member of the National Football League Players Association as well as the National Football Alumni Association.

As for his job with the AHTD in District 7, Nelson enjoys traveling throughout the county and interacting with the people he meets.



Nelson has a love for outdoor life in Arkansas. He and his family own a small farm east of Arkadelphia in the Joan community. With all that Nelson has going on at work and in the community, it’s definitely nice to come home.



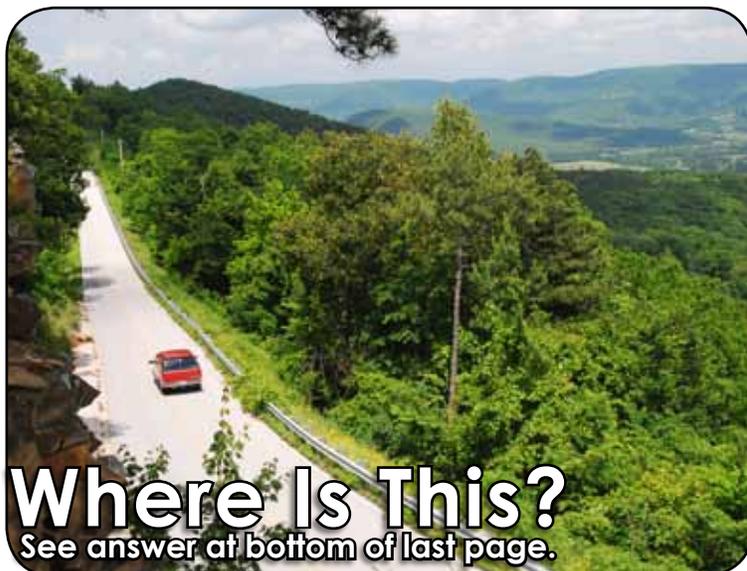
Robertson Named Chief Auditor



Judy Robertson was named the new Chief Auditor for the AHTD on November 30th. She replaces Mike Hyde, who recently accepted another position outside the Department.

Robertson has a master's degree in Political Science (public administration and American government) from the University of Arkansas. She is a Certified Public Accountant, a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Robertson worked previously for the Department serving as the Traffic Safety Fiscal Manager in 1995 and 1996, and Senior External Auditor from 1996 to 1999. Since leaving the Department in 1999, she has been the Vice President of Compliance and Internal Audit for the former Union Bank of Benton.



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

CONSTRUCTION CORNER



Progress continues in the Batesville area on a widening project that will improve Highway 167 from two to five lanes. The job is just under one mile in length and stretches from Highway 69 northward to Highway 233. The contract on the job was awarded to M. J. Lee Construction Company for \$9,426,550 in June of 2008. Work is approximately 60% complete.

In addition to improving the roadway to five lanes, the improvements will include sidewalks on the length of the job as well as traffic signals at the intersections with Highway 233 and Highway 69. Two composite W-beam bridges are also included in the project. Completion is expected in August of 2010. Tim Dunlap is the Resident Engineer for the project.



DISTRICT 5

The Staff Minute



Employee: Romosha Bridges, Resident Office Technician, District 6 – RE#64 Office

Length of Service: 33 years

Job Duties: My job primarily consists of working with the Site Manager program and seeing that the Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines are followed properly.

Favorite part of the job: Talking with my fellow employees.

Background: I started working for the Department in October of 1976 as a Clerk Typist 1. I was promoted to Clerk Typist II in June of 1978. In October of 1987, I was promoted to Resident Office Technician. I find the position still interesting with all the changes over the years.

Family: I have been married for 32 years and I am beginning to believe my husband is going deaf since he has a problem following instructions! My only son is finishing his Masters Degree and we hope employment is in his near future.

Hobbies/Interest: I enjoy visiting with my family and friends, mowing and doing yard work. I believe strongly in supporting my church and church family.

At this time, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the people within the Department that have prayed for me. I have been dealing with a rare cancer since June of 2006. Your prayers have helped carry me this far and I am eternally grateful.

Commission Meetings/ Letting Dates for 2010

January 20
March 10
April 13
June 2

July 13
August 17
September 29
November 16

January Holidays

The following are state holidays for AHTD employees in the upcoming days. All work will be suspended except for cases of emergency.

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert E. Lee Birthdays (Observed)

Monday, January 18

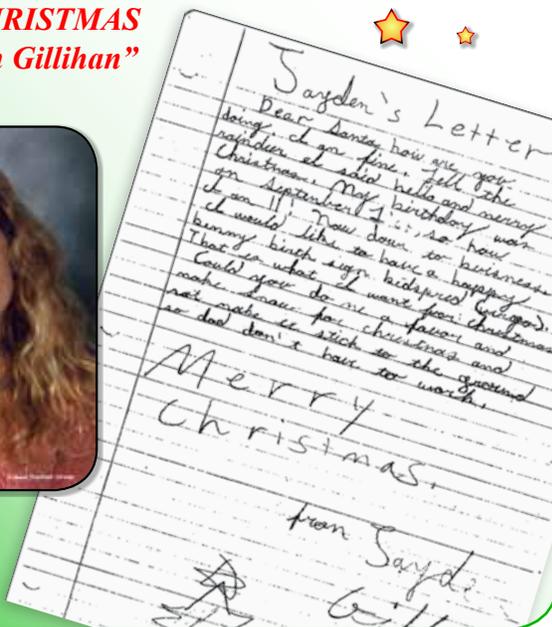
LETTER TO SANTA

Jayden Gillihan, daughter of Jeff Gillihan, Single Axle Truck Driver in District 5, wrote a letter to Santa this year that AHTD employees can appreciate. The text follows:

"Dear Santa how are you doing. I am fine. Tell the reindeer I said hello and merry Christmas. My birthday was on September 1st, so now I am 11!"

Now down to business. I would like to have a happy bunny birth sign bedspred (virgo). Could you do me a favor and make snow for Christmas and not make it stick to the ground so dad don't have to work.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
from Jayden Gillihan"





Construction: (l. to r.) Mike Sebren, State Construction Engineer, presents Ron Price, Section Head - Construction Payments & Audit, with his 35-year service award.



Director: (l. to r.) Director Dan Flowers presents Doris Mixon, Administrative Assistant I, with her 35-year service award. Doris' husband, Charlie, was also there to celebrate.



Fiscal Services: Jackson Neal Barnes, grandson of Toni Barnes, Administrative Assistant III, was born September 22nd.



Highway Police: Austin Keen, age 7, grandson of Pat Brown, Administrative Aide II, killed his first deer during the youth hunt November 7th.



Human Resources: Hannah Jo Haynie, age 16, daughter of Joe Haynie, Safety Inspection Officer, killed this 9-point buck during muzzle loading season.



Maintenance: (l. to r.) Boyd Dickey, Stripping Superintendent, presents Chad Walter, Stripping Machine Driver, with his 10-year service award.



Public Affairs: Sage Russell, grandson of Shelli Russell, Public Affairs Specialist, turned one year old on December 2nd.



District 3: Receiving their 5-year service awards were (l. to r.) Tina Adams, Field Clerk II; Logan Hardin, Construction Field Engineer II; Joshua Nicholson, Construction Aide II; Jeremy Burnett, Bridge Repairer I; and Andrew Blocker, Multi-Axle Truck Driver.



District 1: (l. to r.) Larry Fleming, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, received his 20-year service award from Rex Vines, District Maintenance Engineer.



District 1: Receiving their 10-year service awards were (l. to r.) Shane Knight, Senior Mechanic; and Thomas J. Rooks, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator.



District 3: (l. to r.) Albert Anderson, Single Axle Truck Driver; Sammy Kelesoma, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; and Reginald Easter, Lowboy or Float Truck Driver; volunteer their time at Clinton Primary School. in the Watch D.O.G.S. program (Dads of Great Students).



District 3: (l. to r.) Andy Boyd, Single Axle Truck Driver, receives his 5-year service award from Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer.



District 3: (l. to r.) Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer, presents Dennis Boyd, District Guard, his 5-year service award.



District 3: (l. to r.) Jason Efrid, Resident Engineer, presents Bubba Cox, Construction Aide II, with his 5-year service award.



District 3: (l. to r.) Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer, presents Bobby Sharp, Single Axle Truck Driver, with his 10-year service award.



District 3: (l. to r.) Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer, presents Joe Daniels, Crew Leader, his 15-year service award.



District 3: (l. to r.) Johnny Mauldin, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 20-year service award from Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer.



District 3: (l. to r.) Joe Stone, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 25-year service award from Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer.



District 3: Receiving their service awards were (l. to r.) Randy Sinyard, District Bridge Crew Leader, 15 years; Chad Putman, Bridge Repairer II, 20 years; and Jeff Featherston, Dozer Operator - Finish, 25 years.



District 4: (l. to r.) Ray Jett, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Yvonne Blair, Area Headquarters Attendant, with her 10-year service award.



District 5: Daniel Carlson, grandson of Lisa Carlson, Maintenance Aide II, and Donald Harwood, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, turned one year old November 15th.



District 6: J.D. "Wayne" Harvey, Senior Inspector, retired in June with 33+ years with the Department. Wayne and his wife took a cruise in November to celebrate.



District 6: Taylor Johnson, age 10, granddaughter of Roy Johnson, Crew Leader, killed her first deer.



District 7: Allie Ledbetter, daughter of Aline Nutt, Storeroom Assistant II, killed this seven point buck in the November youth hunt.



District 7: Kenya Frazier, age 14, daughter of Gail Frazier, Resident Office Tech., killed this 8-point buck in the November youth hunt.



District 7: Kiara Frazier, age 7, daughter of Gail Frazier, Resident Office Tech., killed this 6-point buck in the November youth hunt.



District 8: Karis Michelle Pruitt, daughter of David Pruitt, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, was born April 16th, weighing 7 lb. .8 oz., and was 19 inches long.



District 9: (l. to r.) Angela Harris, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, receives her 5-year service award from Kit Core, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 9: Kienan Watts, grandson of Ed Watts, Area Maintenance Supervisor, was born on February 13th, weighing 6 lbs., 7 oz., and was 18 inches long.



District 10: Lou Varvil, Janitor, retired on September 29th with 22+ years with the Department.

new employees

CONSTRUCTION - Adam Rothman, Construction Helper, RE 62

FISCAL SERVICES - Megan Mrdja, Administrative Aide I

HUMAN RESOURCES - Anthony Childress, Single Axle Truck Driver - James Poe, General Laborer

INTERNAL AUDIT - Judy Robertson, Chief Auditor

MAINTENANCE - Kelly Dull, Traffic Services Aide

MATERIALS - Paul Christenberry, Geotechnical Aide I

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Alison Hodges, Safety Information Coordinator

DISTRICT 1 - Charles Barnes, Guard - Darell Hill, Single Axle Truck Driver - Jonathan Stanley, Single Axle Truck Driver - Dennis Ugbaja, Single Axle Truck Driver - Terry Williams, Single Axle Truck Driver - Jason Wood, General Laborer - Harold Wright, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 2 - James Humphrey, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 4 - Jeremy Cearley, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 5 - Robert Adkins, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 6 - Mark Allen, Single Axle Truck Driver - Ducote Haynes, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 7 - Jacoby Stephens, General Laborer

DISTRICT 9 - Ronald Brightwell, Single Axle Truck Driver - Benij Clark, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 10 - Larry Brown, General Laborer - Cedrick Jones, General Laborer

promotions

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT - Sean Collins, Storeroom Assistant I

HIGHWAY POLICE - Jimmy Acord, Sergeant - John Atchley, Sergeant - Clyde Crookham, Jr., Sergeant - David Harris, Sergeant - Brad Perkins, Sergeant - Darren Smith, Sergeant

MAINTENANCE - Carmen Pruitt, Office Adm. Asst. III

MATERIALS - Larry Cook, District Laboratory Technician - Jerry Jackson, Jr., Materials Technician IV - James Mitchell, Materials Technician IV - Jason Pippenger, Maintenance Aide I, Woodruff Co.

DISTRICT 1 - Timothy Willis, Sign Erector

DISTRICT 2 - Thomas Green, Construction Aide III, RE 23 - Jerry Thompson, Backhoe/Front End Loader Op., Chicot Co.

DISTRICT 3 - James Faulkner, Bridge Repairer I

DISTRICT 4 - Rustin McCormick, Bridge Repairer I - Frederick Trent, Bridge Repairer I - Michelle Yohe, Single Axle Truck Driver, Sebastian Co.

DISTRICT 6 - Sharelle Brown, Field Clerk I, RE 65 - Doyle Lee, Construction Aide I, RE 65 - Carrie Moore, Resident Office Tech., RE 61 - Kari Reid, Storeroom Supervisor

DISTRICT 7 - Nina Ingram, Office Adm. Asst. V - Jerry Langley, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Clay Co.

DISTRICT 8 - Dorothy Jackson, Storeroom Assistant II - Daniel Womack, Maintenance Aide II, Pope Co.

DISTRICT 9 - Jimmy Holt, Distributor Operator - Jeff Pokorny, Ferry Boat Pilot - Lester Wilhite, Construction Field Eng. II, RE 94

DISTRICT 10 - Brastain James, General Laborer, Mississippi Co. - Hassan Powell, General Laborer, Mississippi Co. - Daniel Roe, Mechanic

service

CONSTRUCTION - Tina Adams, Field Clerk II, RE 11, 5 yrs. - David Craig, Senior Inspector, RE 61, 15 yrs. - Gina Files, Construction Aide III, RE 11, 10 yrs. - Ronald Johnson, Construction Aide II, RE 61, 20 yrs. - Kimmy Lowrance, Inspector, RE 84, 30 yrs. - Calvin Nutt, Construction Project Coord., RE 74, 25 yrs. - Darron Tytler, Inspector, RE 84, 25 yrs. - Angela Undiener, Resident Office Tech., RE 65, 15 yrs. - Amie Weaver, Construction Helper, RE 52, 5 yrs.

FISCAL SERVICES - Mike Boyd, Admin. Officer V, 15 yrs.

HIGHWAY POLICE - Norma Johnson, Permit Tech., 10 yrs.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Diane Keene, Mail & Supply Supervisor, 30 yrs. - Donna Martin, Landscape Tech., 20 yrs.

MAINTENANCE - Thomas Averett, Telecomm. Op., 5 yrs.

MATERIALS - Thomas Greenway, Laboratory Coord., 35 yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Sharon Baker, Section Head - Mapping & Graphics, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Jeremy Burnett, Bridge Repairer I, 5 yrs. - Ray Woodruff, District Engineer, 35 yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - Perry Bledsoe, Maintenance Aide II, 30 yrs. - Jeffrey Hart, Equipment Maintenance Supv., 20 yrs. - Bobby Oglesby, Storeroom Assistant II, 20 yrs. - Steve Sites, Crew Leader, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - Dennis Boyd, Guard, 5 yrs. - Jeffery Featherston, Dozer Operator - Finish, 25 yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Edward Fisher, Street Sweeper Operator, 30 yrs. - John McLaughlin, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 35 yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Gary Lockett, Maintenance Aide II, 25 yrs. - Raymond Ratton, Crew Leader, 20 yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Danny Garrett, Crew Leader, 20 yrs. - Michael Hicks, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. - Kevin Rogers, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Danny Deal, Senior Body Rep. & Painter, 25 yrs. - Russell Hopper, Hydraulic Excavator Op.-Fin., 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - Ricky Day, Distributor/Roller Operator, 10 yrs. - Michael Guess, Bridge Repairer I, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Dennis Drewry, Crew Leader, 20 yrs. - Donald Flowers, Motor Patrol Operator, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Ronnie Hinkle, Welder, 25 yrs.

retirement

FISCAL SERVICES - Leonard Grinstead, Sect. Head - Fed. Aid Billing, 34+ yrs. - Judy Marchese, Data Entry Operator, 18+ yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Mark Bradley, Staff Research Engineer, 24+ yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Jimmy Bryant, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 36+ yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - William Granderson, Engineer I, 5+ yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Lionel Elder, Crew Leader, 31+ yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Robert Swink, Maintenance Aide II, 22+ yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - Jack Cossey, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 34+ yrs. - Danny Duvall, Motor Patrol Op.-Finish, 33+ yrs.

memorials

HIGHWAY POLICE - Cpl. Norris B. Calaway, Sr., 11/24/09, active

PLANNING - Hershel Russell, 11/3/09, retired

DISTRICT 5 - Earnest M. Birmingham, 11/21/09, retired - Ernest L. Pearce, 12/1/09, retired

DISTRICT 6 - W. J. "Sonny" Phillips, 12/1/09, retired

DISTRICT 8 - Leonard C. Keeling, Sr., 11/23/09, retired

active duty

As of 12/15/09, the AHTD had 8 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote deployment.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Travis Nelson, Safety Inspection Officer, 7/15/09

DISTRICT 1 - Ricky Benson, Construction Helper II, 10/5/05

DISTRICT 4 - Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10/3/05

DISTRICT 6 - Shirley Hammett, Area Headquarters Attendant, 7/20/04

DISTRICT 9 - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 - Douglas Henry, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 10 - Robert Martin, General Laborer, 5/28/09 - Dustin Miller, Bridge Repairer, 11/11/09

"Where Is This?"

Highway 123 near Mt. Judea, in Newton County.



The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (Department) complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibited discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in Department's programs and activities, as well as the Department's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the Department's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to James B. Moore, Jr., Section Head - EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), P. O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501) 569-2298, (Voice/TTY 711), or the following email address: james.moore@arkansashighways.com. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille.