

WORKERS' SPOTLIGHT

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Greg Lewis

Spring has finally arrived in the Washington, DC, area, ending one of the longest and coldest winters in recent memory. The cherry blossoms are in bloom and everything is starting to become green, but as much as we would like to be spending the days outside on the National Mall, we are hard at work on a number of projects and initiatives.

Recently, the Former Worker Medical Screening Program's (FWP) annual meeting was held where Principal Investigators and key staff members from each of the FWP cooperative agreement holders get together to discuss program business. The meeting was very productive and we discussed a number of initiatives including an IT project to facilitate more secure transfer of a participant's personally identifiable

information (PII). We believe that we already have very strong procedures in place for protecting PII, but in light of some of the recent data breaches both inside and outside of the Government, we are always striving to make things more secure. We will be creating a module of the Secure Electronic Records Transfer (SERT) system to handle data transfers for the

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REMEMBRANCE QUILT

By Greg Lewis

On Tuesday, April 8th, staff from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Health, Safety and Security participated in the opening of the Cold War Patriots' quilt display on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

The quilt was created back in 2011 and has been displayed in a number of high profile locations, with the goal of drawing attention and celebrating the accomplishments and legacy of the United States nuclear weapons workers and their families. To date, the quilt has been displayed at multiple DOE sites, the National Atomic Testing Museum in Nevada,

the American Quilting Museum, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), and now the Rotunda in the Russell Senate Office Building.

The quilt is a cumulation of over 1,000 individual squares, each one signed by a former worker

or the family member of a former worker. It is approximately 11 feet tall by 17 feet wide and the accompanying picture with some of the event attendees standing next to the quilt shows how large it really is!

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The Quilt in the Rotunda in the Russell Senate Office Building

GETTING TO KNOW SITE EEOICPA POCS



Meet Gail Splett from the Richland Operations Office (covers the Office of River Protection and the Pacific Northwest Site Office)

Gail grew up in Richland, Washington, and is a true native of the Hanford Site – mother lived at White Bluffs and father in the city of Hanford. They had to graduate early in 1943 as their family homes were confiscated for the Hanford Site. Gail started her career with the Atomic Energy Commission in 1974 as a clerk in the Personnel Division. She quickly returned to college taking night classes and earned both her Associates of Art and Bachelor of Science in Business Management in 1980 while working full-time. She graduated from the National Defense University, Information Resources Management College, at Fort McNair in 1994.

Gail served as the Freedom of Information Officer, Privacy Act Officer, and Technical Information Officer from 1980 to 1987. She served as the Site Records Officer from 1987–1992, then promoted to the Lead Program Analyst for information management, responsible for direction and oversight of all IT matters on the Hanford Site. From 1995-2001, Gail served as the Project Manager of the downwinders litigation with overall responsibility for all non-legal aspects of the discovery efforts. Gail then returned to her role as Records Officer until 2008, inheriting the duties for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) in 2006. Due to the heavy workload of the Special Exposure Cohort data capture required, the two functions separated in 2008, with Gail now solely focusing on the EEOICPA program.

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THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND HISTORY

By Cecelia Kenney

The third stop on our journey of the museums supported by the Department of Energy (DOE) is the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The museum is the Nation's only congressionally chartered museum in its field and, like the other highlighted museums to date, is a place to view another perspective on the history of the Atomic Age. Created in 1969, the museum was located on Kirtland Air Force Base. In 1973, the name of the museum was changed to National Atomic Museum and, at that time, was the only public museum that preserved the history of the nuclear industry. The museum was closed on September 11, 2001 due to the required security measures of the base. It reopened its doors in May 2002 in an Old Town location and subsequently moved to southeast Albuquerque in April 2009 and restored its name to the original National Museum of Nuclear Science and History.



The museum recently achieved accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition for a museum.

Featured exhibits encompass everything from the origins of atomic theory to the Cold War to modern-day advances in nuclear medicine. Currently, the museum features an active learning exhibition, "Roll, Drop, Bounce: The Science of Motion" containing 11 interactive stations exploring physics and the science of motion.

Like the other museums we previously highlighted, the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History has a robust children's program featuring

museum classroom programs, tours, kids' camp, and professional development for teachers.

If you are in the Albuquerque area, set aside a few hours in your schedule to visit the museum, now located at 601 Eubank Boulevard, SE. ■



National Museum of Nuclear Science and History

CHEST X-RAY B-READING

A Former Worker Program Article

A B-reading is a special reading of a standard chest x-ray film performed by a physician certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The reading looks for changes on the chest x-ray that may indicate exposure and disease caused by agents, such as asbestos or silica.

A B-reading is considered a special reading because doctors who are certified by NIOSH to perform B-readings use a specific protocol to read and record the findings as developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ILO's protocol provides standards (rules) for systematically describing (to examine the x-ray in a step-by-step method found in the rules) and recording certain abnormalities (changes) on a chest x-ray that can be attributable to (related to or caused by) the inhalation of dusts and fibers, such as coal dust, silica, asbestos, and cotton dust.

Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) participants who consent to have a chest x-ray will also receive a B-reading. Each FWP project has a physician on staff who is trained to perform this special reading for the detection of possible dust-related diseases. ■

DIRECTOR'S NOTE *cont.*

FWP. As many of you may know, the SERT system is a program that DOE built to facilitate the transfer of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act records from the Department of Energy (DOE) field sites to the Department of Labor and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The SERT system processed the transfer of approximately 16,000 records packages during the first year of operation, some containing 1,400 to 1,500 pages of records. Because we already had access to this secure, high functioning system, it only made sense to leverage that capability towards the FWP, so we are adding a module to the system to handle FWP records.

DOE staff will also be attending some scheduled public meetings in the coming months, including the NIOSH Advisory Board meeting in Augusta, GA, on April 29th, and Joint Outreach Task Group meetings in Pahrump, NV, and Las Vegas, NV. More information on these events can be found on the NIOSH Web site and on the calendar section of this newsletter. ■

THE QUILT *cont.*

Senator Mark Udall from Colorado addressed the group, followed by a photo session in front of the quilt. The event was sponsored by the Cold War Patriots and there were a number of



Diana Swartzwelter sews the quilt together over 12 8' tables

attendees present from Government Agencies, including Ms. Rachel Leiton from DOL, Dr. John Howard from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and Mr. Malcolm Nelson from the Office of the Ombudsman for DOL. Mr. Glenn Podonsky, Dr. Patricia Worthington, Ms. Barbara Stone, and Mr. Greg Lewis were in attendance representing DOE. Also in attendance were two worker community representatives who were recognized at the event, Richard Anderson and Amber Cain. Richard Anderson's late wife, Janine, had the initial idea and was the driving force behind the original National Day of Remembrance in 2008. Mr. Anderson has continued her legacy and is an active worker advocate and has been instrumental in planning National Day of Remembrance celebrations in Oak Ridge, TN. Ms. Cain is the daughter of the late Charlie Wolf, who was a longtime worker at the Rocky Flats Plant who passed away from brain cancer in 2009.

DOE anticipates displaying the quilt in the DOE Headquarters, Forrestal Building, in Washington, DC, and is currently working with the Department's Office of Management and the Cold War Patriots on scheduling. Hopefully, we will have an update on the outcome in our next newsletter. ■

STAFF *cont.*

Gail's personal life is wrapped up with her 14 year old daughter, Sarah. They like to travel together and plan a two-week trip to Washington, DC this summer. ■



TRIVIA QUESTION

Memorial Day was first known by another name. What was it?

Calendar of Events



May

- 1** 9:00 am Local Event
X-10/Y-12 Asbestos Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 3739 West US Highway 9, Lake City, TN
- 6:00 pm FWP Event
K-25 AGRE Meeting
USW Union Hall, 133 Raleigh Road, Oak Ridge, TN
- 6** 8:00 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Breakfast
Bob Evans Restaurant, 220 Byers Road, Miamisburg, OH
- 9:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 204 S Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN
- 9:30 am - 11:30 am Joint Outreach Task Group Town Hall Meeting
Nevada Test Site Workers
Bob Ruud Center, 150 N. Highway 160, Pahrump, NV
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Joint Outreach Task Group Town Hall Meeting
Nevada Test Site Workers
Local 872 Training Center, 4201 E. Bonanza Road, Las Vegas, NV
- 7** 9:30 am - 11:30 am Joint Outreach Task Group Town Hall Meeting
Nevada Test Site Workers
Local 872 Training Center, 4201 E. Bonanza Road, Las Vegas, NV
- 8** 11:00 am Local Event
X-10 Guards Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 15** 11:30 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Luncheon
Golden Coral, 8870 Kingsridge Drive, Miamisburg, OH
- 20** 12:00 pm Local Event
X-10/Y-12 Machinists Local 480 Retiree Meeting
Local 480 Hall, Oak Ridge, TN

June

- 3** 8:00 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Breakfast
Bob Evans Restaurant, 220 Byers Road, Miamisburg, OH
- 9:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 204 S Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN
- 4** 7:15 am Local Event
X-10 Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 8529 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN
- 9:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Inspector Group Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 11:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Guards Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 4:30 pm FWP Event
X-10/Y-12 ATLC Council Meeting
ATLC Union Hall, 109 Viking Road, Oak Ridge, TN

June cont.

- 5** 9:00 am Local Event
X-10/Y-12 Asbestos Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 3739 West US Highway 9, Lake City, TN
- 6:00 pm FWP Event
K-25 AGRE Meeting
USW Union Hall, 133 Raleigh Road, Oak Ridge, TN
- 12** 11:00 am Local Event
X-10 Guards Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 17** 12:00 pm Local Event
X-10/Y-12 Machinists Local 480 Retiree Meeting
Local 480 Hall, Oak Ridge, TN
- 17** 5:00 pm Local Event
Y-12 Gage Lab
Gondolier, 729 Briarcliff Ave, Oak Ridge, TN
- 19** 11:30 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Luncheon
Golden Coral, 8870 Kingsridge Drive, Miamisburg, OH

For a complete list of calendar events, visit:

http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events_calendars.html

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Trivia Answer: Decoration Day - first observed in the U.S. on May 5, 1865, with the tradition of decorating a soldier's grave from the Civil War with flowers.

The observance date was later moved to May 30th and included American graves from World War I and World War II, and became known as Memorial Day in 1971. Congress moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May.