

Manchin Honors Long-Time Public Employees

Governor Joe Manchin III made time in his extraordinarily busy schedule – a busy schedule compounded by the needs of a special legislative session – to pay tribute to and honor 170 long-term State employees at West Virginia’s annual Public Service Recognition Week Governor’s Awards Ceremony.

The event took place at the State Cultural Center Theater on September 14, 2005. Eligible to attend were employees who had completed 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of service as of June 30, 2005.

The day began with registration in the morning. After checking in, those in attendance were able to take in the sights of the Capitol Complex or linger and enjoy piano music provided by State employees **Paul Dixon** (Public Employees Insurance Agency) and **Don Gresby** (West Virginia State University). Immediately prior to the 1:30 ceremony, attendees were treated to a mini concert by the **249th Army Band**.

At the ceremony, Governor Manchin presented each employee with his or her award individually. During his address to the honorees and their guests, Manchin applauded the employees’ hard work, sacrifice, and long commitment to serving the needs of our citizens. He expressed his own commitment to building a stronger, “open for business” West Virginia, made easier by the fact that State government is blessed with capable, caring, and skilled employees. He also praised the hearts of State workers and West Virginians in general. Manchin spoke about the

Hurricane Katrina relief efforts coordinated and taken by State employees to aid people who were displaced because of the disaster. Many of those affected lost everything they had and must start their lives over completely. Manchin praised the fast work of our public employees, and the heartwarming generosity of everyone to provide the necessities these refugees need.

Those who attended enjoyed the day tremendously. Many took time to reminisce and reflect on their years in State government.

Maxine Harris of the Public Service Commission (PSC) has now completed 36 years of service, mostly with the PSC. “I’ve seen good



40-Year Honorees Karen and Everett DeMoss receive their awards from Governor Manchin.

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Newly Regilded Dome, WV State Quarter Unveiled October 14

The slightly overcast sky on October 14 wasn’t noticeable at all. In fact, October 14 was actually a shining day for West Virginia, with many shining moments. At an outdoor ceremony on the North Steps of the Capitol Complex, the Capitol Dome’s spectacular new look was officially revealed, and the official West Virginia Quarter took its place as the 35th state quarter to be released by the U.S. Mint.

State Treasurer John Perdue served as the day’s Master of Ceremonies. He joined a very proud and beaming Governor Joe Manchin, who was accompanied by First Lady Gayle Manchin. Also present were U.S. Mint Acting Director David Lebryk, quarter designer Jamie Lester, and a host of State leaders



Governor and Mrs. Manchin greet guests at the unveiling ceremony.

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times and bad ones, but I have always enjoyed and appreciated my work with the State. I'm very proud to work for the State of West Virginia and would never have considered working anywhere else." She also extended thanks to Governor Manchin and the Public Service Recognition Committee. "I really appreciated all the hard work that went into providing us with a wonderful ceremony that we can remember into our retirement. It was wonderful to be recognized and appreciated."

Occasionally, the ceremony will include married couples with 30 and/or 35 years of service. A married couple with 40 years of service is a rarity, but this year, Governor Manchin had the pleasure of honoring **Karen and Everett DeMoss**, both employees of the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and both with 40 years of service.

Everett says the time has gone by very quickly. "It seems like only yesterday that Karen and I met on my very first day of a brand new job."

Karen agrees, commenting that she and her husband take great pride in the work they do. "This is a very rewarding job when you can see individuals overcome obstacles and be able to successfully return to the workforce, and for others to be able to complete a vocational program and become employed."

Everett adds that they both feel blessed to play a part in an extremely important program. "Except for family, nothing has given us more satisfaction than knowing that we've had the opportunity to have a positive impact on the lives of others. Our careers with DRS have been good."

Special thanks go out to all who made the day so special, including the **PSRW Com-**



Governor Manchin with 35-Year Honoree Maxine Harris

mittee, staff from both **Culture and History** and **General Services**, our **musicians**, the **Young Floral Company**, **A Formal Affair Catering**, sign language interpreter **Joe Balog**, and photographer **David Fatellah**, who provided the photos for this article. Appreciation is also extended to the JROTC color guard **cadets from Robert C. Byrd High School** in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

No More Wondering ... It's Official

Enjoy those leftovers with family and friends!

Effective this year, the day after Thanksgiving is an official holiday for State employees. House Bill 406 establishes a single holiday in February (President's Day) to match the federal government, and adds the day after Thanksgiving.



RED CROSS IN DIRE NEED OF BLOOD DONATIONS

*Your local Red Cross needs YOU!
Blood supplies have been critically low this summer.
All types are needed.
Be a lifesaver - call your local chapter TODAY!*

Did you know the Guinness world record for donating blood is held by a South African man? Maurice Creswick, 79, has cracked his own record for the 14th time. Since age 18, he's donated 480ml of blood every 56 days - about 350 pints as of July 26, 2005. His achievement was spurred at age 11 by his witnessing of a terrible accident in which a tram crashed into a vehicle, critically injuring five people. He decided right then that he would never stand by and do nothing if there was a way to help people. And so his donations began.

WORKERS TO RECEIVE SALARY INCREASE NOV. 1

House Bill 414, a supplemental appropriation bill, designates the funding allocations of a \$900 per year salary increase for public employees and school service personnel and the \$1350 increase for workers in specific, targeted job classifications.

Bottom line: effective November 1, 2005, you're getting a salary increase!

Come on ... you know you want to!

Click on the box at the right to find some fabulous deals and getaways, because ...

There's always something happening at a West Virginia State Park!



Vaccine for Meningococcal Disease Now Available

Menactra, a meningococcal conjugate vaccine used to protect against four serogroups that cause meningococcal infection, is now available through the West Virginia Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

Meningococcal Disease is a very rare but highly serious bacterial infection. Around 500,000 cases are reported worldwide each year, resulting in up to 50,000 deaths. In the United States, as many as 3,400 people can be affected. In most cases, the disease causes meningitis and/or sepsis (very simply speaking, serious infection of fluid in the brain and spinal cord, and/or of the blood and body tissues). Among those infected with Meningococcal Disease, approximately 10% will die; for those who develop septicemia, the figure can go as high as 50%. Up to one in five patients who survive will suffer permanent disabilities such as hearing loss, neurological or organ damage, and/or limb amputations.

Meningococcal Disease often begins with symptoms that are frequently mistaken for viral infections like the flu. Unlike common viral infections, Meningococcal Disease progresses extremely fast, and can kill an otherwise healthy young person in less than 48 hours. Although not extremely transmittable, Meningococcal Disease is contagious, spread through respiratory and throat secretions by activities like coughing, kissing, eating/drinking after an infected person, etc. It is also treatable with antibiotics, but the seriousness and

rapid progression of the disease require early diagnosis and immediate medical intervention.

The best medicine for this disease is prevention. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health recommends one dose of Menactra for children in each of the following age groups:

- 11-12 year olds 17-18 year olds
- 15 year olds College freshman living in a dorm

Most county health departments in the State are able to provide the vaccine only to those children who meet eligibility requirements for the VFC Program. To qualify, children ages birth to 18 years old must meet one of the following conditions:

- ✗ Enrollment in the Medicaid Program
- ✗ Have no health insurance coverage
- ✗ Be an American Indian or Alaskan native
- ✗ Be underinsured

Enrollees of the West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (WVCHIP) are eligible to receive State-supplied Menactra from their private medical practitioner. Parents or guardians of children not covered by VFC or WVCHIP should contact their medical practitioner for more information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Menactra should NOT be taken by any individual who has a hypersensitivity to any of the vaccine components or to latex. Latex is used in the vial stopper. Your medical practitioner can advise you on the vaccine component sensitivity issue.

How Do You Spot Meningococcal Disease?

Watch for the following symptoms:

- ✗ High fever, headache, and stiff neck are common symptoms of meningitis in anyone over the age of 2 years. These symptoms can develop over several hours, or they may take 1 to 2 days. Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking into bright lights, confusion, and sleepiness.
- ✗ In newborns and small infants, the classic symptoms of fever, headache, and neck stiffness **may be absent or difficult to detect**, and the infant may only appear slow or inactive, or be irritable, have vomiting, or be feeding poorly. As the disease progresses, patients of any age may have seizures.

Information taken from the following CDC website:

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm

DHHR Utility Discount Program Begins

The Department of Health and Human Resources' Utility Discount Program offers a 20% discount to eligible individuals/households for reduced seasonal heating costs. To qualify, individuals must receive benefits from one of the following between Nov. 2004 and Mar. 2005:

Supplemental Security Income (18+ yrs. old)

WV WORKS

Food Stamps AND be at least age 60

The utility companies accountable for home heating bills are responsible for determining program eligibility. For more information, contact your local DHHR Office.

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and officials. Hundreds of school children and citizens attended, and the ceremony included posting of the colors by the 130th Airlift Wing Color Guard, the National Anthem sung by Sacred Heart student Alexandra Ayoob, as well as performances by the George Washington High School Band, the Appalachian Children’s Chorus Concert Choir, and Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln (portrayed by Jim Ruben and Joyce Browning). Representatives for Senators Robert C. Byrd and Jay Rockefeller, and for U.S. Representative Shelley Moore Capito, delivered congratulatory remarks.



UNVEILED: Both long-awaited, the regilded Capitol Dome (left) and the West Virginia state quarter (right) were unveiled on October 14, 2005.

Perdue commented that the quarter is a symbol of West Virginia that will be carried in pockets around the world. Noting that the design depicts West Virginia’s natural beauty, Lebryk said the quarters will “always be a shining reminder of your West Virginia heritage.”

Manchin spoke to a crowd of several thousand, talking about the beauty of the Capitol Building and how the dome has finally been done as it was originally designed by architect Cass Gilbert. He spoke of commitment to restoring all buildings at the Capitol Complex, and steadfastly maintained that West Virginia is, indeed, “open for business!”

To the delight and cheer of the crowd, Governor and Mrs. Manchin joined Lebryk at the giant U.S. Mint Quarter Display to officially release the quarter and place it on the board. Manchin was truly excited about the event. “This is a day West Virginia has never had before and will never have again.” At the completion of the ceremony, the Manchins greeted students and distributed the new quarters to them. Lester also took time to speak with many of the children. When asked how he felt, Lester replied, “Absolutely fantastic! It’s just been an unbelievable experience.”

According to Lebryk, 140 million Americans (nearly one person in every household) is a collector of the 50 States Quarters. Over a 10-week period, the Mint will produce around 650 million of the West Virginia coins; half at the Philadelphia mint, and half at the Denver mint.

IS&C Offers Visio, Adobe Acrobat Classes

Contributed by Marilyn Padon of IS&C’s Technology Learning Center.


The Technology Learning Center will begin offering classes in Visio 2003 and Adobe Acrobat 7 Professional this November.

Visio 2003 is a drawing package based on the green plastic drawing templates of the past. Rather than require the user to have excellent drawing skills, the user selects pre-drawn shapes from a template and drags them to the drawing. Visio can be used to quickly create a wide range of drawings: building blueprints, street maps, project timelines, program flowcharts, network diagrams, and data flow and process flow diagrams are examples.

Adobe Acrobat 7 Professional software is the advanced way to create, control, and deliver more secure, high-quality Adobe PDF documents. Assemble electronic or paper files – even websites, engineering drawings, and e-mail – into reliable PDF documents that are easy to share with others using free Adobe Reader® 7.0 software.

Anyone interested in enrolling can call the Technology Learning Center at 558-6384 or visit their website at www.wvtlcclasses.com.

Capitol Complex Flu Shot Clinics



November 15

Building 4 9 A.M. to Noon
Building 1 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

November 16

Building 3 9 A.M. to Noon
Building 5 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

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