

Hartwell Dam Turns 50

Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) commemorated Hartwell's 50th Anniversary on April 27, 2012—exactly 50 years from the day in 1962 when the power plant first generated and delivered electricity to the grid.

The Hartwell Dam and Lake Project Office hosted a commemoration ceremony with more than 350 in attendance. The audience included community members, stakeholders, government officials, Corps employees and retirees, and former construction workers who helped build the dam.

The event paid tribute to hundreds of men and women who devoted their time and talents to the Hartwell Project over the last half century. About 15 former construction workers and their families attended the celebration and were presented commemorative coins.

"The heart of this project didn't spring from diagrams and drawings, but rather it stemmed from the ideas in the minds of the visionaries who designed it and the workers who breathed life into it," said Col. Jeffrey M. Hall, Commander of the USACE Savannah District, which operates and maintains the dam.

The keynote address came from Richard Lockwood, Chief of Operations and Regulatory for the USACE Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Lockwood highlighted the need to improve and modernize the nation's infrastructure, as projects like the Hartwell Dam age.

"The infrastructure of our nation needs renewal," Lockwood said. "The folks that built this Monument to Progress, and thousands of others like it, had a vision of greatness and a will to make it happen."

"We are now at a tipping point," he said. "We can continue to stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before us and enjoy their dream; but we must also honor that dream with a vision of our own."

Carol Burdette, a lifetime resident of the Hartwell Lake area with 25 years in public service, served as the Mistress



Col. Jeff Hall, Savannah District Commander; George Bramlette, Hartwell Operations Project Manager; Col. Eric R.P. Conrad, South Atlantic Division Commander; and Richard Lockwood, Chief of Operations and Regulatory for USACE Headquarters, cut the cake at the Hartwell Dam and Lake 50th Anniversary commemoration ceremony, April 27, 2012. *Photo by William Powell.*

of Ceremonies and spoke about her childhood memories of the lake.

"My first real recollection of the lake was when I was about six, and my family got a boat," she said. "For the next five or six years, I spent part of almost every weekend fishing and getting sunburned on Lake Hartwell."

"...You see, I lost my mother when I was 14, and the time we spent on Lake Hartwell was some of my best memories of her," Burdette said.

Other guest speakers included representatives from the Lake Hartwell Marketing Alliance, the Lake Hartwell Association, the Southeastern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Federal Power Customers Group. 

By Tracy Robillard, Corporate Communications Office

Hartwell Dam and Lake, located on the upper Savannah River in Hartwell, Georgia. *Photo by Tracy Robillard*

