

New union leader elected; tribute to outgoing president

Wyatt Cox was elected President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 2176 on Dec. 28, 2009, by bargaining unit team members. Cox is a Power Plant Shift Operator at the Hartwell Power Plant, and previously served as the Executive Vice President for the local union.



Wyatt Cox

Local 2176 is the exclusive bargaining representative for all non-supervisory, non-professional permanent employees of the Savannah District and most of its field offices. As such, Local 2176 holds a governing Labor-Management Relations Agreement with Savannah District. As the new Local 2176 president, Cox will consult with

district management, through the Human Resources Office as required, to ensure uniform interpretation, understanding, and implementation of this agreement. Approximately 500 team members are covered by the governing agreement.

Other union representatives for Local 2176:

- Executive Vice President: Matthew Rorick
- Secretary: Randy Waters
- Treasurer: Billy Hilton

Tribute to past union president

Thad E. Phillips is the Local's outgoing President. He joined Local 2176 as a member in 1963 and served as its President on numerous occasions from 1973 until 2009. He was involved in the District's Labor-Management

Partnership Council in the 1990s and was instrumental in the negotiations of two Labor-Management Relations Agreements.

Phillips served with the Hartwell Dam and Lake Project as an Engineering Equipment Operator from 1962 until his retirement in 1977. He began his civil service career in 1952 at the former Donaldson Air Force Base in Greenville, S.C.

Phillips began his military service with the U.S. Army in 1944. He deployed with the 10th Armored Division to Bastogne, France, where he served in combat for six months during World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, engaged for 180 days straight in movement and battle across 600 miles throughout Germany. He was captured twice by the Germans and was a Prisoner of War in Austria when the war ended in May 1945.

Phillips is the recipient of 14 military awards and decorations including the Purple Heart, two Bronze Star Awards, two Battle Star Awards, the Combat Infantry Badge, a Unit Citation, and a Good Conduct Medal. He resides in Starr, S.C., with his wife Bessy. The couple has been married for 48 years.

"We thank Thad for his long and dedicated service to the district and the nation," said Col. Edward Kertis, SAS District Commander. "He is an outstanding American whose contributions serve as an inspiration to us all. I was fortunate to be able to sit with him for hours listening to stories from World War II. I'm proud to have been able to work with such an American hero." 

By Karleen Grevemberg



Thad E. Phillips

Yadira Gill graduates Army Management Staff College

The first Army Management Staff College graduating class of 2010 included Yadira Gill, realty specialist with Real Estate Division. Now falling under the Civilian Education System's new progressive and sequential leader development program, the CES leader development program includes a new four-course sequence – Foundation, Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced. The Intermediate Course, a four-week resident portion under CES, provided Yadira and her classmates the opportunity to learn to lead people, develop cohesive organizations, manage resources and implement change while demonstrating critical thinking and communication skills. "CES is an investment in the student, the organization and the Army's future, preparing civilians to become 21st Century multi-skilled leaders who personify the warrior ethos," said Ralph Werthmann, chief, Real Estate Division. *By Jeanne Hodge, USACE photo by Tracy Robillard.*

