

Engineerings

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January 2002 Volume 77 Number 3

Major General Centracchio To Speak At Annual Banquet

by Roy L. Bouvier;
Editor and Publisher of *Engineerings*

Major General Reginald A. Centracchio will be the guest speaker at the upcoming Providence Engineering Society Annual Banquet to be held Thursday, February 28, 2002 at the Providence Biltmore.

Major General Centracchio was born on July 23, 1940 in West Warwick, Rhode Island. He graduated from Deering High School, West Warwick, Rhode Island in 1958 and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Administration at Roger Williams College, and an Honorary Doctorate in Military Science by the Constantinian University. He enlisted in the National Guard in September 1957, graduated from Officer Candidate School, Class Number 5, 1962, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He completed the Air Defense Officer Basic Course, 1963, the Air Defense Officer Advance Course, 1971, the Field Artillery Officer Advance Course, 1973, and the Command and General Staff College, 1975.

Major General Centracchio has held a wide variety of important command and staff positions which include Platoon Leader and Battery Commander on various missile sites throughout Rhode Island; Field Artillery Tactical Intelligence Staff Officer and Adjutant; Recruiting and Retention Manager; Plans, Operations and Military Support Officer; Director of Personnel and Administration; and Director of Plans, Operations and Training, Rhode Island Army National Guard. Major General Centracchio was appointed The Adjutant General, State of Rhode Island, and Commanding General, Rhode Island National Guard, by Governor Lincoln Almond on 1 August 1995. On 1 July 1996 he was appointed Director of Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) merging the National Guard and Emer-



Major General Reginald A. Centracchio, 2002 Annual Banquet Guest Speaker

Inside Engineerings

Major General Centracchio To Speak
At PES Annual Banquet 1

New Staggered Truss Design
Guide Available 3

Larry's Corner 3

Join The PES 4

RISPE Names Bernardo Engineer
of the Year 5

Stanford Named Humanitarian
of the Year 6

Some Real Winners 5

Professional Directory 7

Advertisers 8

**Make Your
Reservations
For The
PES Annual Banquet
To Be Held
Thursday,
February 28, 2002
At The Providence
Biltmore**

Call 434-2332 Today!

Turn to "CENTRACCHIO" on Page 5

Calendar of Events

For up-to-date event information, go to the PES Online Calendar, accessible through the PES Website at www.provengsociety.com.

AFFILIATES, PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to forward your event information to the PES Office at proveng@netzero.net for posting.

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New Staggered Truss Design Guide is Now Available

Chicago, IL – January 2, 2002 – The American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc. (AISC) has produced a new design guide on staggered truss framing systems. *Steel Design Guide Series 14: Staggered Truss Framing Systems* is aimed at the designers of mid-rise apartments, hotels, motels, dormitories, hospitals, and other structures for which low floor-to-floor height is desirable.

The *Design Guide* includes such topics as general information regarding the staggered truss framing systems, diaphragm action with hollow core slabs, design of truss members, connections in staggered trusses, seismic design, fire protection of staggered trusses, and special topics. The *Design Guide* will help the structural engineer calculate the initial member loads and to perform approximate hand calculations, which is a requisite for the selection of first member sizes and the final computer analyses and verification.

Steel Design Guide Series 14: Staggered Truss Framing Systems is available to AISC members for \$26 and to non-members for \$39. For more information and to purchase the *Design Guide* please visit AISC's bookstore at www.aisc.org/bookstore.html.

AISC, headquartered in Chicago, is a not-for-profit technical institute and trade association established in 1921 to serve the structural steel design community and construction industry in the United States. AISC's mission is to make structural steel the material of choice by being the leader in structural-steel-related technical and market-building activities, including: specification and code development, research, education, technical assistance, quality certification, standardization, and market development. AISC has a long tradition of more than 80 years of service to the steel construction industry providing timely and reliable information.

Larry's Corner

by L. Robert Smith F.ASCE
Past President, Providence Engineering Society

Just Like Brothers - Cain and Abel



Spite can be a terrible thing. We all have heard the saying, "Cutting off his own nose to spite his face", and not thought much about it. Over the years, in our office, we have seen some amazing things done for "spite". We had designed a dock for an individual. The history of why we designed this particular dock relates to the fact that his brother lived next door. His brother had a dock and allowed our client to use it. The brother bought another boat and thought that our client's boat should now go out on a mooring. His brother was now going to use both sides of his dock, for his two boats. Rather than go to a mooring, our client decided to build a dock for himself. Naturally he wanted to crowd his brother's side. We explained that he had to be a minimum of twenty-five feet off the riparian rights line, which in this case would be an extension of the property line. He questioned why his brother's dock was closer than twenty five feet. We told him it was an older dock and as such was "grandfathered". He was dismayed by that news, but told us to hug his brother's side as much as possible. A few years after the dock was installed, he called us for information. His brother had pulled the piles for his float and replaced them with much longer ones. He had then mounted a float lifter on top of the rear piles. The client wanted to know if they were permitted in their coastal area. I told him that they were permitted in this area or he could not have built his dock. He was greatly distressed. He next asked how he could go about seeing if the float lifter was approved. I told him to go to Wakefield and check the files at CRMC. Well he didn't feel right about doing that. It was his brother, after all. Would I check into it for him. He would be more than glad to pay us. We checked and no approval was to be found. He asked if he could file an anonymous complaint. I told him that he could, but all that would do would be to have CRMC make his brother file a post-construction application. That was okay. At least he would cost his brother some money and cause him grief. He wanted to know if it was legal for his brother to improve and change a dock which was non-conforming. That was an interesting question. I opined that I did not believe that was the kind of complaint that could properly be filed anonymously. That would require details and follow-up. He had a great idea; How's about if he filed an anonymous complaint and I go down to meet with the enforcement division and fill them in on details of the case. He would be glad to pay us for our time. I told him that they probably wouldn't do anything more to his brother than make him file the application and pay the fee. I told him that he was going to spend more money with us than his brother would have to pay CRMC. He thought that was okay. He had a lot more money than his brother. He

Turn to "JUST LIKE BROTHERS" on Page 4

"JUST LIKE BROTHERS" continued from page 3

could afford the money and wouldn't notice it. His brother was always short on cash and would feel the pinch. How much could his brother be hurting financially if he could afford the luxury of a float lifter?

We were contacted by someone to design a septic system for a lot they owned in Western Cranston. Their sister lived on the lot to the west and his brother lived on the lot to the east. The State has requirements for separation from wells to leaching fields. His sister's well was located just off his westerly property line and his brother's well was similarly located directly off his easterly property line. There was no place on our clients lot which would allow for a septic system to be located the required distances from the abutters' wells. We mentioned that they could sign a waiver or in the extreme we could look into moving one of their wells, if possible. No problem. They were his siblings. Interestingly, neither his brother's nor his sister's wells appeared to have needed to be where they were located. They could have been located further away from his property. It was almost as if they had been located so as to prevent the middle lot from being developed. It was actually not possible for the brother to now relocate his well. The neighbor who had just built on the other side of him put in their septic system and well playing off the locations already existing on the brother's lot. I had my doubts, but our client felt there was still no problem. Either of his siblings would either sign the variance or he would pay to have his sister's well relocated. Only one problem; neither of the sibs liked the client's wife and kids, as it turned out. They particularly could not stand the wife's mother, who lived with our client and his wife. Neither one would move their well or sign a variance. The client came back to us and asked his options. We told him to find a good lawyer and see if he could make a case for them having purposely located their septic systems and wells to prevent him from building. Then he would need an opinion as to the legality of their acts. We spoke to the lawyer and told him that the DEM now regulated the location of these features, in new subdivisions, to see that this couldn't happen. These lots predated that DEM requirement. The end result was that our client couldn't build. Okay. What do you do with a non-buildable lot. You could cut off all the decent size trees and sell them for cash. You could then clear cut what was left. You could also go down there on weekends and camp out in a RV. You could also invite your mother-in-law down each weekend to also camp out with you. You could do this long enough until your sister agreed to allow you to move her well. You could then build your house. Then you could paint the front and the back of the house white. People driving up to it would see a white house. Sitting in your backyard you would also see a white house. But if you painted the sides bright purple and pink, then your brother and sister would have to look at this every time they looked out their windows. Seeing your lot was clear cut, they would have an unobstructed view. As the client said to us, "How would you like to look at that while you were eating breakfast". He got his revenge.

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Editor's Note:

Letters, story ideas, and material are welcomed and encouraged. If you have an opinion, press release, or story that you feel is worth sharing, forward it to me via fax at (401) 823-4850 or mail to: Techwrite Services, 3 Congdon St., Coventry, RI 02816, or by Email via royb94@aol.com.

RISPE Names Richard A. Bernardo, P.E. Engineer of the Year

The Rhode Island Society of Professional Engineers (RISPE) has selected Richard A. Bernardo, P.E. as Engineer of the Year for 2002. Mr. Bernardo graduated from Roger Williams College in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.



*Richard A. Bernardo,
RISPE 2002 Engineer of the Year*

Mr. Bernardo is Vice President and Operations Manager, Southern New England Engineering Services for Beta Group, Inc. of Lincoln, Rhode Island.

The RISPE Board of Officers and Directors unanimously approved Mr. Bernardo's nomination for the award in recognition of his substantial contributions to the engineering profession and the community. Mr. Bernardo is a past president of RISPE and remains active with the societies MATHCOUNTS program. MATHCOUNTS promotes math skills among all seventh and eighth grade students in Rhode Island and nationally. Mr. Bernardo has also served as past president of the Providence Engineering Society and has served on the Board for the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is a Life Member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers. Mr. Bernardo was the recipient of RISPE's Young Engineer of the Year award in 1990.

Mr. Bernardo's vocation began with CE Maguire in New Britain Connecticut in 1979. As a resident engineer on various Connecticut Department of Transportation highway and bridge projects. In 1983, he returned to Rhode Island working for consulting firms on private, municipal and state civil engineering projects. Mr. Bernardo joined the Beta Group, Inc. in 1997, a growing regional engineering firm.

Here as Vice President, he manages the Southern New England engineering services. The Firms Southern New England division provides consulting engineering services in Rhode Island and Connecticut. In 2000, Mr. Bernardo achieved another personal and professional milestone becoming a Gubernatorial appointment to the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers. The Warwick City Council has recently appointed Mr. Bernardo to its Growth Management Council.

Richard lives in Warwick with his wife Karenlee and daughters, Sarah, Victoria and Rebecca. He is a member of NSPE, RISPE, ASCE, Providence Engineering Society and the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers. His technical and managerial leadership roles are examples of success to all who know and have worked with him. His continued work with professional organizations, MATHCOUNTS and the community promote engineering and provide the positive professional and personal quality traits that are required to represent RISPE and Engineer of the Year 2002.

"CENTRACCHIO" *continued from page 1*

gency Management Agency.

Major General Centracchio has been awarded the Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters; National Defense Service Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with three Hour Glass Devices; Army Service Ribbon; Army National Guard Recruiter Badge; Rhode Island Star; Rhode Island Service Medal with Eagle and V Device; and the Rhode Island Emergency Service Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

His civilian affiliations include: The National Guard Association of the United States; Past President and current member of the National Guard Association of Rhode Island; Association of the United States Army; 100 Club; a constable in the Town of Scituate, Rhode Island; member of the Fraternal Order of Police; member of the Providence Marine Corps of Artillery, Order of Saint Barbara; member of the American Legion; Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, Narragansett Council; Board of Directors, American Red Cross (RI).

The PES Annual Banquet will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Biltmore with cocktails being served in the L'Apogee Lounge. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 PM with dinner following at 7:00 PM.

In addition to the guest speaker, a number of awards will be presented that include the Freeman Award, RISPE Engineer of the Year, Humanitarian of the Year, as well as the PES, RISPE, and Jalbert Scholarships.

Dinner choices for the evening include Roast Prime Rib Au Jus, Chicken Marengo, and Yellow Fin Tuna.

Reservations can be made by contacting Dorothy Sadowski of the Society office at (401) 434-2332. Tickets are \$50. per person or \$500. for a table of ten.

Donald L. Stanford Named Providence Engineering Society's 2002 Humanitarian of the Year

As a recently retired employee and GTECH Holdings Fellow, Don Stanford advises the Company in the areas of future technologies and architectures that may be of value to the Company's future growth strategies. A 23-year veteran of the lottery industry, Don also shares valuable insights into opportunities and strategies for the Company's core business.

Don began working for GTECH's founders in 1979 as Manager of Software Development. Over 22 years, he held various technical leadership positions including Vice President of Advanced Development and Chief Technology Officer. Stanford guided the growth of GTECH's technology organization from a software staff of four in 1979 to its current worldwide deployment of over 800 IT professionals. From 1986 until 1989 Don served on the GTECH Corporation Board.

Most recently, Don led the formation of GTECH's multi-disciplined Delivery Group, which is responsible for defining customer requirements, developing specifications and fulfilling customer's technology expectations.

Stanford earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations in 1972 and a Masters of Science in Computer Science/Applied Mathematics in 1977 from Brown University.

Don serves on several charitable boards and is President of the Board of the Times² Academy Charter School in Providence, RI, which promotes excellence in Mathematics, Science and Technology. The new Times² Charter School facilities located at 50 Fillmore Street were recently dedicated on November 9, 2001. Don has recently been appointed as an Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at Brown University and is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Johnson & Wales University.

Don is a NAACP Life Member and in 1999 received the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Professional Achievement. In 1999 he also received the Honorable Thurgood Marshall award for community service from the NAACP.

Don also serves on the board of the RI Technology Council and works in the area of promoting IT education for Rhode Island's high school population.

Don's community activities involve sponsoring two after school clubs at Time² Academy, one in Robotics and the other in Aviation and Rocketry. As a former member of the Greater Providence YMCA Board, Don sponsored the construction of an after-school computer lab called the Powerzone. Based on the success of that project, GTECH has since donated and equipped over 70 additional after school computer labs in the United States and abroad. Most recently, Don and his wife Jane donated a computer lab to St. Peter and Paul's School in St. Thomas U.S.V.I which will be used to provide computer instruction to neighborhood children after school.

Don is a member of the American Radio Relay League is a former Board Member of the Rhode Island Better Business Bureau and buyroad.com.



Don Stanford, 2002 PES Humanitarian of the Year

Some Real Winners

The Washington Post's Style Invitational asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Here are some recent winners:

Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Foreplay: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Inoculate: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.








Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease (this one got extra credit).

Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

Glibido: All talk and no action.

Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

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