

CREATING A VOLUNTEER COACH

Parks & Recreation



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Corps Restores Lady Liberty's Image



COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

When millions of weary exiles reached the portal of the New World after months at sea, a tall and dignified lady —The Statue of Liberty, greeted them. Still today, she is a living symbol of political freedom and democracy. The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is helping to restore her image.

The district was asked by the National Park Service to repair the Liberty Island seawall, "in the shadow of the great statue," said Anthony Ciorra, Project Manager, USACE, New York District.

Liberty Island is the home of the national monument stands. The 12.7-acre island sits in the Upper Bay portion of New York Harbor and is 1-5/8 land miles off of the southern tip of Manhattan Island.

The island has a long history and has served different purposes—as defense fortification to protect New York Harbor in the 19th century, as a temporary quarantine station during the



smallpox epidemic, as a refuge for Tory sympathizers during England's occupation, and also as a summer home by a private owner. In the late 19th century, the island was chosen to be the home for the Statue of Liberty, a gift of international friendship from the people of France:

The National Park Service (NPS) is the present caretaker for the Statue of Liberty and her island. On June 12, 2003, the NPS signed an agreement

(Upper left) Lady Liberty stands tall in the New York Harbor. (upper right & lower) Workers for NPS repair the Liberty Island seawall that is more than 200 years old.

with the Corps' New York District to have them repair 340 linear feet of the 3,119-foot vertical, granite-faced concrete Liberty Island seawall that was originally constructed in the early 1800's, and surrounds most of the island. The repairs took place at locations where granite stones have fallen out of the seawall.

On Sept. 29, 2003, the construction contract for the seawall repair was awarded to Perello Inc. of Lake Hopatcong, N.J. Construction began in April this year and was recently completed in June.

According to Ciorra, the project held special meaning for all involved. He said, "There is an added motivation for delivering a high-quality product because we are working on a national treasure."—written by JoAnne Castagna