



The Wave

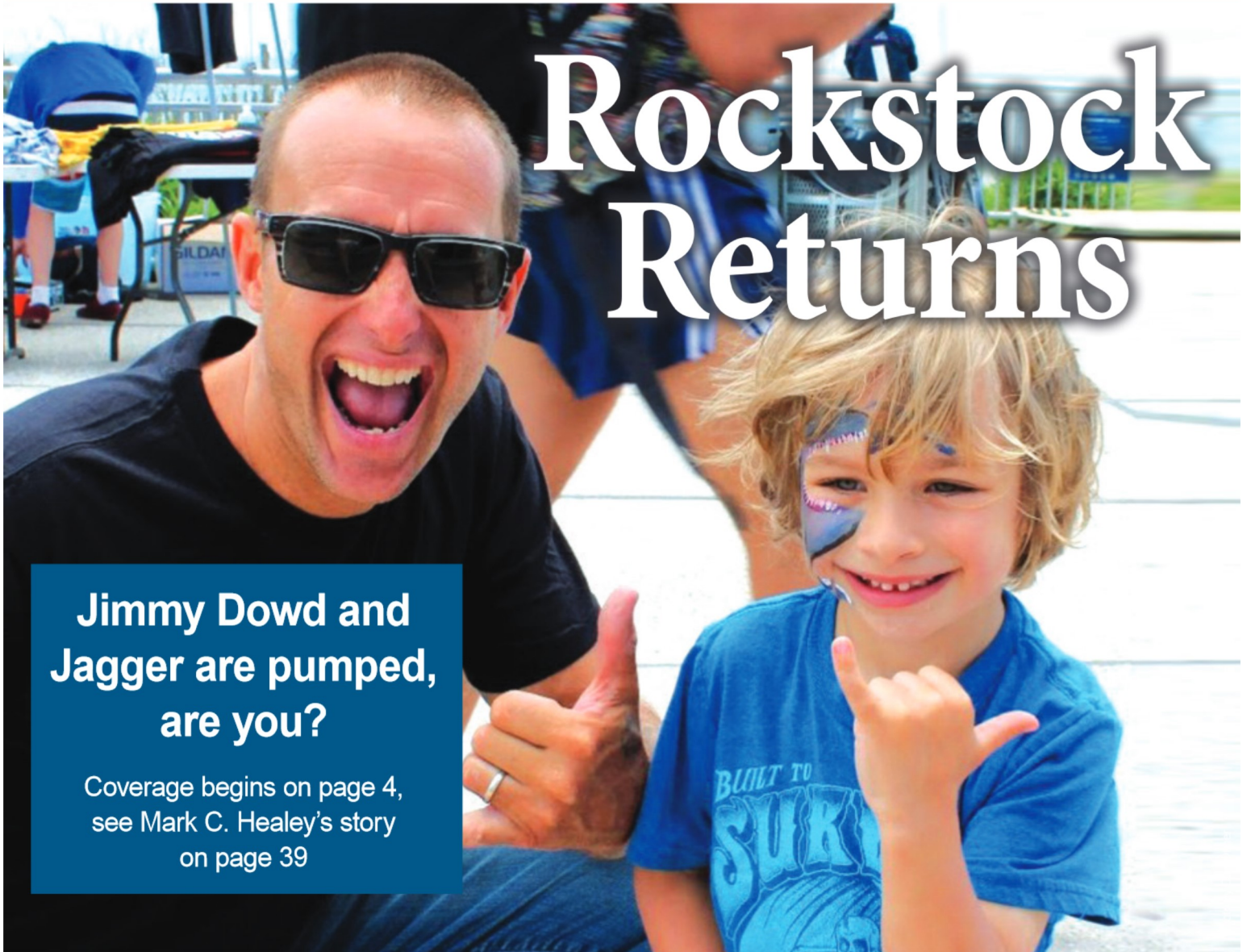
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**Jimmy Dowd and
Jagger are pumped,
are you?**

Coverage begins on page 4,
see Mark C. Healey's story
on page 39

HOPE DAY

Local church
organizations
unite

See Ray Vann's
story on page 22



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We are hurting,
we hurt. Black and
Brown people...we
really love each other. I don't
know [the Wallace family]
but I came here yesterday
and I came here today
because I care.”



— Kristal Middleton, Far Rockaway mom

See story on page 7

USACE Retirees Go Beyond Call Of Duty

Army Corps'
Reemployed Annuitant
Cadre Program steps
up during pandemic

By JoAnne Castagna, USACE, Ed.D.

Retiree, Rosalyn Marie Lampkin used to work for the Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Today she spends her time taking care of the elderly. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, she has found this work especially challenging, but it hasn't stopped her from continuing to help people.

She said, "I wanted them to live as normal a life as possible. Some were afraid to go grocery shopping, to go to the doctor, and a few of them worried about getting their medications delivered on time. One of my clients was very stressed about his life, and COVID-19 increased his stress level to the point he wanted to commit suicide. Fortunately, I got help for him, and to this day, he is doing well. When I told him, I would be helping residents in Brooklyn, New York get vaccinations, he was very supportive and told me never to stop helping people."

Lampkin is one of many Army Corps retirees that volunteered—under the Army Corps' Reemployed Annuitant Cadre Program—to work at Federal Emergency Management Agency Community COVID-19 Vaccination Centers across the nation to assist with vaccine distribution.

They're helping the community every step of the way to get vaccinated—from greeting them at the door to making sure they get home safely. They're also going beyond the call of duty. Following are the experiences of three of them who volunteered at a vaccination center set up at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York.

Josie Arcurio, Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist, Office of Response and Recovery, Field Operations Division, FEMA said, "This location in Brooklyn was at the heart of the type of community we wanted to reach. We wanted to reach those especially at high risk of COVID-19 exposure and infection. This community is one of the most diverse and socioeconomically challenged communities in the country."

The volunteers worked side by side with personnel with many agencies including FEMA, the U.S. Air Force medical staff, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, AmeriCorps NCCC, Federal Aviation Administration, New York State Health Department, and New York Project Hope.

The Army Corps in collaboration with FEMA has played a visible role in the COVID-19 Pandemic. When the pandemic hit, overwhelming hospitals, the agency teamed up to construct alternate care facilities.



Workers at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York. Front Row (Left-Right) Victoria Kim, Donna Beck, Thomas French, Josie Arcurio, Rosalyn Marie Lampkin, Daisy Martin, and Rachel Jimenez. Back Row (Left-Right) Patrick Tuohy, Frank Peterson, John Emmerson, and Jack Grialico.

struct alternate care facilities.

A year later, the agencies have come full circle and are teaming together to set up community vaccination centers throughout the Nation.

Lampkin served as an administrative officer at the vaccine center. She worked in the vaccine registration area and at times on the receiving line to greet people and escort them to appropriate areas.

Her role was more than just administrative.

"A woman came to the location to register her sister to receive the vaccine, said Lampkin. "She was unwilling to get vaccinated, yet she wanted her sister to be safe from getting COVID-19. Our team members were doing their best to convince her that she, too, should get vaccinated. The woman was adamant about not wanting the vaccine and gave every excuse she could think of why she refused to be vaccinated."

Thomas French, another Army Corps retiree who used to work for the Vicksburg District, greeted thousands of people coming into the center for their first or second shots. He checked in every person, reviewed their paperwork and identifications, and directed them to the correct areas—whether it was registration or the vaccine area—and he watched them leave the center.

He said, "What made this work satisfying for me was the pure signs of relief on people's faces after they got their second vaccine. Understand, when many of these people first get to facility, they are scared, apprehensive

of the whole government thing, and wonder if this is worth it. They've already spent a lot of time trying to get appointments, then after their first vaccine they must wait a few weeks for the second vaccine. When they finally get their second vaccine, they are relieved, and the anxiety has been lifted."

French also helped people download the New York State Excelsior Pass app that shows their proof of vaccination.

The volunteers' work did not end after people got their vaccine shots. Victoria Kim, another Army Corps retiree who used to work for the Army Corps' Southwestern Division had the responsibility of making sure the vaccine recipients waited 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine before leaving in case they experience any severe reaction to the vaccine.

She said, "The most interesting aspect of what I did was interact and meet people from many different agencies, backgrounds, and continents. New York City is truly an international city."

She said there was constant movement and energy all day long. She met Uber drivers from many different countries in the morning and many elderly people in the neighborhood who needed extra care.

She said, "Many elderly people from the neighborhood come to receive the vaccine. Many of them come with someone to assist them, but sometimes they come by themselves. In these cases, we all help

them onto a wheelchair or help them return to their home safely."

The volunteers are proud of what they did, and the community showed its appreciation.

Kim said, "Many people were thankful and appreciative of the work we did and thanked us verbally as they were leaving, and some left us personal notes of thanks. It was a very rewarding experience every day."

She added, "We worked long hours, 7 days a week. Although the work was physically challenging, there was so much satisfaction and reward knowing that I was part of history. I contributed to vaccinating 200,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in Brooklyn, NY. I encourage everyone to take short-term mission assignments with FEMA. You will be helping someone in need; you will be making a big impact on someone's life."

For Arcurio this mission was a personal one. She said, "My family has been deeply affected by COVID-19 with 8 members having caught the virus, including my 95-year-old mom. My older brother is still paralyzed since his November 2020 hospital admission. My younger brother died on March 21, 2021, after he lost his fight battling the virus. It is important for everyone to get vaccinated to fight this virus and end suffering to many families."

Dr. JoAnne Castagna is a Public Affairs Specialist and Writer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. She can be reached at joanne.castagna@usace.army.mil