

05/01/2001

Friends of Bennett's Creek

On behalf of the "Friends of Bennett's Creek", formerly known as the "Bennett Creek Dredging Group", we would like to thank all of those involved for their continued support, thus ensuring Bennett's Creek remains navigable to business and recreational users of the waterway. The recent timely action taken by the City of Suffolk and the Army Corps of Engineers in mobilizing the dredge "Currituck" to our local waters in April, 2001 re-affirms the commitment to this important project.

The recent dredging marks yet another milestone for those individuals who in 1959 embarked on the project and spent many long years soliciting local, federal and congressional support, acquiring permits, and necessary funding. Those individuals, including the esteemed **Congressman Norman Sisisky**, who is no longer with us, would be extremely proud of the continued effort to nurture that which they labored over so passionately. Many remember the highlight of the channel dredging effort culminated in a **Red Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** on June 22, 1992 in a local clubhouse, appropriately located at the mouth of Bennett's Creek. In gratitude to those individuals whose efforts brought us to where we are today, we take this opportunity to remember them. Many other individuals whose names do not appear also made significant contributions to this project. Their efforts, as well as those who continue to labor, help to shape a legacy that is not to be forgotten.

Remembering 1992

Norman Sisisky – former US Congress, House of Representatives; **Col. RC Johns** – Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District; **Robert Nelms** – Robert E. Nelms Consulting and former General Assembly Delegate; **John L. Rowe, Jr.** – former Suffolk City Manager; **Honorable Johnny S. Joannou** – Virginia Senate, House of Delegates; **John W. Warner** – US Senator; **Walter J. Price** – Bennett Creek Dredging Group Chairperson; **Honorable Paul S. Tribble, Jr.** – former US Senator; **Johnnie Mizelle** – attorney and former Suffolk City Councilman; **Cynthia D. Rohlf** – Assistant City Manager, City of Suffolk; **Richard L. Hendrick** - former Suffolk City Manager; **James F. Hope, Sr.** – former Suffolk City Mayor; **Richard Klein** – Army Corps of Engineers; **Charles S. Robb** – former US Senator. *The Friends of Bennett's Creek maintains historical records of their valuable contributions.*

Beneficiaries of this 50-year contractual agreement, initiated in 1992, include all the Citizens of Suffolk, who may enjoy Bennett's Creek via the city's Bennett's Creek Park & Public Boat Launch, as well as local businesses, Hines-Farley Offshore Yachts, Inc., Bennett's Creek Marina & Restaurant and our many local watermen. Our waterway remains one of Suffolk's natural treasures due to the successful accomplishment of dredging operations in 1992, 1998 and 2001. The City of Suffolk's Capital Improvement Plan (2001-2011) recognizes and includes subsequent channel dredge funds in fiscal years 2004/2005, 2007/2008 and 2010/2011. We must all continue to ensure those funds are protected and secured.

Thank you for your individual contribution!

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Write to 100 Windy Point Dr. Suffolk, Va 23435; phone: (757) 686-2242; or visit our website at www.suitesites.com/dredge