



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION
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JUN 11 2014

Division Commander

Mr. Jorge L. Quijano
Administrator and Chief Executive
Panama Canal Authority
Balboa
Panama City
Republic of Panama

Dear Mr. Quijano:

The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, Ballard, Washington, USA, extends Centennial congratulations to the Panama Canal Authority on its celebration of 100 years of the Panama Canal connecting the world. The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks was built and is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks will celebrate its Centenary in 2017.

Transit of the SS Ancon, August 14, 1914, inaugurated the Panama Canal, connected the oceans and changed world shipping forever. By providing a direct and inexpensive passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Panama Canal spurred growth in developed countries and provided impetus for economic expansion throughout the world, from Europe, to the Americas, to the Far East.

Three years later, July 4, 1917, the USS Theodore Roosevelt led a marine parade of 300 vessels to officially open the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, opening inland fresh-water lakes to ocean-going vessels, transforming the city's maritime industry and its geography. It was now possible to move vast quantities of wood and coal quickly to West Coast and Asian markets. The earlier opening of the Panama Canal made it possible for these commodities to reach East Coast markets, as well.

The Panama Canal and the Ballard Locks have much in common. Both are on the eastern rim of the Pacific Ocean, were finished in the early Twentieth Century, and provided dividing lines between fresh and salt water. The USS Theodore Roosevelt, which officially opened the Hiram H. Chittenden Locks and Lake Washington Ship Canal, provides a symbolic link in that it was named after President Theodore Roosevelt. During his presidency from 1901 to 1909, Roosevelt was chiefly responsible for completion of the Panama Canal.

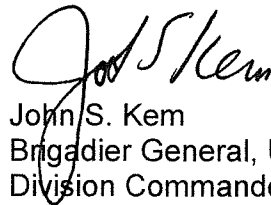
The Panama Canal and the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks were also both completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, sharing many engineering and architectural features, like the filling culvert valves. The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks is named after Brigadier General Hiram M. Chittenden of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the driving force behind the construction of the locks and ship canal.

At the Panama Canal project, President Roosevelt appointed Colonel George Washington Goethals the Chief Engineer on February 26, 1907. Goethals was militarily bound and personally determined to see the Panama Canal through to completion. With an authoritative administrative style, Goethals brought the project to completion ahead of schedule in 1914.

As the Panama Canal Authority looks forward to the next 100 years of the Panama Canal, so the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers looks to the future of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks. The Panama Canal is embarking on the largest project since its inception by expanding to a third set of locks to meet increasing world trade demand and doubling waterway capacity. The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks strives to make sure that it fulfills its recreational, commercial and civic roles by providing safe and reliable passage for close to 50,000 commercial and recreational vessels each year, maintaining stable inland water levels, and embracing the latest science to protect indigenous wildlife, especially the salmon that are so important to the local economy.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks send best wishes and congratulations to the Panama Canal Authority on the Panama Canal Centennial.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Kem". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

John S. Kem
Brigadier General, US Army
Division Commander