



President's | Message

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Have you ever wondered why structures are so fascinating to so many? For those of you lamenting the fact that many still don't know what a civil engineer does, ask people instead what a structural engineer does, and I bet there will be no hesitation in their response. It seems that this is an area of engineering that people not only "get" but gravitate to. And who can blame them? Nothing illustrates the advances in engineering technology quite as brilliantly as our ability to safely and seamlessly construct mammoth sky-rises or bridges spanning the oceans. The structures we see today embody beauty, elegance and sheer engineering marvel... what tributes to our profession!

If you haven't guessed by now, this month's *Journal* is all about structures. When I first started my Masters degree, it was in structural engineering. I was drawn to the field much for the same reasons as the general public. It is easy to be enamored by our achievements in this area. Although my career focus changed, and I finished my Masters in Water Resources, my love of the discipline has never wavered.

So, let me take a few moments to share with you some of my personal favorite structures—a hard thing to do since I have so many!

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel – This particular structure became one of my personal favorites the moment I traveled over the bridges and through its tunnels. How could you not be enamored of this engineering marvel? Voted "One of the Seven Engineering Wonders of the Modern World," it is truly an inspiration. Hats off to *ENR* as one of the few publications to give credit to the design firm AND the individual project engineer, P. C. Michener. Way to promote our engineers!



The Hoover Dam – Supervised by engineer John L. Savage, this is another favorite of mine and another "One of the Seven Engineering Wonders of the Modern World." I was just there with my family in April, and was once again blown away by the sheer magnitude of that achievement. Every engineer should visit at least once.

Last of my shared favorites, an obscure little horse and pedestrian bridge located in Pinellas Park, Florida within the Lloyd Tingler Nature Park. It will never win any awards; it did not achieve any brilliance in engineering innovation; and most would look at it and question what would make it so special. But for me it represents the first and only structural project I was ever involved in during my engineering career. It is a tangible mark that I helped make, and something permanent I can show my kids to help them better understand my profession.



I hope you enjoy reading about the structures featured in this edition... and who knows, maybe you will find one of your new favorites inside! ■