



Former Memphis Depot Restoration Advisory Board commemorates adjournment

Members of the former Memphis Depot Restoration Advisory Board, or RAB, commemorated their recent milestone of RAB adjournment in a recent ceremony in Memphis. The RAB voted to adjourn itself during their last meeting on October 29, 2009. During the ceremony hosted by Defense Logistics Agency, nearly a dozen RAB members received the Commander's Coin from the Defense Distribution Center for their commitment to the project and community – some for the full 15 years of the RAB's existence.

"I want to not only thank you for fulfilling your role on the RAB, but, more importantly, I ask all here tonight to join me in commemorating your critical role in revitalizing your community," said Mike Dobbs, chief of Environmental Safety and Occupational Health for DDC and RAB co-chair.

The former Memphis Depot RAB members voted to adjourn from their responsibilities after determining that the final cleanup activities at the Depot are successfully underway, clearing the way for the final transfer of remaining property for productive community reuse.

"We congratulate and thank you for accomplishing something that few people in this country can claim," said Turpin Ballard of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or USEPA. "You have successfully completed one mission of public involvement in the environmental

restoration of the former Memphis Depot. Hopefully, other RABs around the U.S. will one day be able to match your accomplishment."

Jamie Woods of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, or TDEC, and Tom Holmes, the chief engineer for HDR|e2M, the environmental cleanup contractor, also acknowledged the accomplishments of the RAB members. The Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team, consisting of representatives from DLA, USEPA Region VI, and TDEC, conferred Certificates of Appreciation on the former RAB members.

Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander sent his appreciation to the former RAB members through a personal letter, noting that "Revitalizing this area of Memphis could not have happened without your help."

Since 1994, the RAB monitored cleanup activities and provided feedback to DLA as it oversaw the environmental restoration of the

641-acre former World War II depot. The last two Findings of Suitability Transfer approvals will make the remaining 219 acres available for community reuse this year.

The Memphis Depot Redevelopment Corporation, which develops the land, has already placed some 30 companies on the property. The companies range from distribution and manufacturing, to service-oriented companies. The redevelopment corporation estimates that when all of the land is developed, the businesses will provide a total of about 3,600 jobs.

In June 2009, the Under Secretary for Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, John J. Young, Jr., awarded the restoration program at the former Memphis depot the 2009 Environmental Restoration award for outstanding work by an installation in Department of Defense environmental programs.



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