Watco Companies celebrated our Customers with Customer Appreciation Days on October 22-24. See page 2.
There were so many things about Watco Companies 2013 Customer Appreciation Days that were perfect. The weather was cool for hunting but not too cool for the golfers, a tent addition at the Chatter’s dinner was a great solution for space needs and best of all, was the opportunity to forge new friendships with our Customers and vendors.

But still, there was something missing. Gerald Falletti, who had been attending Customer Appreciation Days pretty much since the start had passed away just a couple of weeks before the event’s kickoff. Falletti, who was a good friend of Dick Webb, helped him teach Watco CEO Rick Webb to hunt and shoot many years ago. Although he had been unable to walk for several years, he still proved to be an expert shot from the special seat set up for him at the Continental hunt (European hunt).

Webb noted Falletti’s passing at the Wednesday morning breakfast and challenged the attendees to see if any of them were as good of a shot as Falletti, who had the ability to shoot into the sun from his chair and still hit his target.

Falletti’s chair was once again set up at the Continental with mementos from past hunts surrounding it.

Webb said, “My earliest memories of hunting are with my dad and Gerald. They both took the time to teach others the value of being a good, safe hunter. Gerald was the consummate outdoorsman and nothing was wasted. Whatever he shot or caught, he would eat. He would love to go hunting or fishing with anyone to not only share the glory of the great outdoors but to also spend time with others who had the same passion. Gerald was missed at CA Days but he showed up at the course to pick out a set of clubs with the gift certificate he had won at the Chatter’s event on Wednesday evening. Leonard Smith with Goodyear won the other big prize given on Wednesday, a 12-gauge Beretta. Five $100 gift certificates to John’s Sports Center were also given out.

The Wednesday night Chatter’s event has become a popular event to attend not because of the wonderful food that is served but for what follows, the karaoke. Marsh’s Jim O’Hara and John Durante made their annual appearance and our Australian friends Neil and Mark Wandel, from CBH in Esperance, Australia, repeated their entertaining hen and rooster round. Of course, the evening is never complete without Rick Webb’s version of “Johnny B. Goode” aptly called “Watco B. Goode”.

The event came to a close Thursday evening at the Railcar in Mindenmines, Mo. For a few years the Watco offices were located in Mindenmines, although not at the Railcar location. The Thompson brothers, from Thompson Brothers Welding Supplies in Coffeyville, Kan., brought down trailers and set up an outdoor kitchen where the pheasant and chukar that was hunted was prepared along with shrimp, onion rings, fries, alligator and cheese and crackers. That was just the appetizers, the dinner consisted of ribs, toasts, pulled pork, sausage, baked beans, potatoes, and brisket. Charlene Huskey, Watco receptionist and Anne Elrod, accounting executive assistant set up a pie shop in the railcar and pies and whipped cream were served to all who had room left after the wonderful banquet. Several team members brought their families out to try the food and enjoy the end of a great CA Days event.


Thanks to these sponsors and everyone who made this event such a success.

Front page (l-r): Don Chapman, hunting guide; Mark Blazer, Watco; Paul Barber, Thunder Basin Coal Company; Dave Ruggles, Watco; Tom Tipton, hunting guide and Gary Johnson, GLJ Transportation Consulting.
Ron Close had a very special birthday last year, many people get cards and a cake but Close got a crude by rail facility. Actually it’s not his, but it’s definitely one of his favorite projects that the Project Management Team (PMT) has been involved in. It all started with a meeting in Philadelphia, Pa., on Ron’s birthday (February 5) between Watco Companies and Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES). Watco attendees were Close, senior vice president supply chain management and projects; Rick Webb, CEO; Paul Leonards, vice president project management; and Phil Penner, vice president business development. Representing PES were Phil Rinaldi, CEO; John Pickering, senior vice president refining and engineering; and several other key PES management personnel. Watco presented a bid to design and build the crude by rail facility for PES was awarded the project.

When Watco received notice that they had won the bid, things got busy. The industry average for building such a facility is 11-12 months - Watco’s Project Management Team did it in just 4 ½ months. John White, Watco’s vice president of engineering - project management, drew up the plans and Marcus McCalman, project manager, and Chance Adair, assistant project manager, were the boots-on-the-ground team at the site. They worked with Kinley Construction, Anderson Construction, JJ White Construction, and Rhinehart Construction companies to ensure the project stayed on track at the 150 year-old facility. Ground was broke on June 3 and on October 22 the first tank car was unloaded. Current expectations are two trains per day which is delivered by the CSX from the Bakken oil fields.

“It was a pleasure working with the group from PES and I look forward to building long-lasting partnership that will produce great things,” said Close.

The Project Management Team wasn’t the only Watco Team working on a deadline. The project was a collaborative effort from several divisions within Watco. Not only did the PMT design and build the facility, but Watco also provides the switching services at the terminal as well.

“When we received word that we were going to operate the switching yard we had a short amount of time to pull everything together,” said Nate Henderson, WTPS Central Region director. Chris Spear, WTPS director of human resources, and his group did a tremendous job of identifying and interviewing potential candidates.”

Duane Helms, WTPS business development, worked with the Customer on the specific details and put together the initial operating plan. Duane also played a large role in several of the startup items by bringing his experience and knowledge to the table to assist the Customer on specific questions regarding unloading the crude trains.

Keith Lacaze, vice president of switching, Tony Clark, regional switching manager and David Hambrick, regional switching manager, all played an instrumental role in supporting the project. Tony and David helped to refine the switching plan and timing by carrying out a real life simulation to validate the switching times that had been assumed. Tony and David have also attended several meetings with the Customer to help them become more familiar and comfortable with the operation. Hambrick trained all of our new team members.

The WTPS Safety Team has also played a large role in assisting the PES startup. Jeff Baum, director of EHS, and Don Latimer, WTPS Regional safety manager, provided training to the 70 PES employees who will be responsible for unloading the trains. Jeff and his group have also been very involved in meetings with the Customer to address safety concerns regarding the operation.

The Mechanical Team had their hand in the pie as well. They helped assist with the particulars of the car repair that Watco will be providing on-site. The knowledge and expertise that they have brought to this project has been invaluable.

Dave Gromer, purchasing director, John Ostrander, purchasing manager track, and their group did a terrific job identifying and ordering the equipment and supplies needed for this operation on an extremely short time frame. Penny Wood, purchase card and cell phone administrator, Teri Kenyon, asset accounting assistant, and Anne Elrod, finance executive assistant, all helped with invoicing, accounting and tracking functions for the project.

Close said, “This has been a complete team effort and a perfect example of how the synergy created when the team’s talents combine make something that is nothing short of amazing.”

A ribbon cutting was held at the facility on October 3 with Governor Tom Corbett, Mayor Michael Nutt and U.S. Representative Robert Brady on hand to celebrate the new capabilities the crude by rail terminal provides to the refinery. “You are doing something great here,” said the Mayor. “This is an incredible complex,” he said. “You see it all the time from the highway, having no real idea of what takes place here.”

The refinery brings in 190,000 barrels a day of Bakken crude which displaces more expensive crude from the North Sea and Africa, whose high cost was one of the main reasons the refineries struggled to compete in the past.
One of the key qualities of a great team is the ability to work together. The Watco U Team is helping different teams at Watco work on building blocks for teams. These blocks include communication and negotiation, analytic and creative skills, and organization.

Watco U Training Specialists, Bob McElwee and Nick Weber have a variety of tools at their disposal to teach team building hands-on. It’s easy to talk about team building in class but it’s when you’re out putting the theories into practice that the ideas seem more concrete.

Contact Nick or Bob if your teamwork could use some work.

Time Management
by Lisa Salazar
Watco U - Instructional Designer

Time management. Perhaps you have read a book, an article, or taken a class or workshop to help you develop time management skills. After all, life is busy and we are all trying to squeeze as much into our waking hours as is possible. With obligations at work, home, and other community or personal commitments, there never seems to be enough time to do everything we want to accomplish. As a result, life becomes stressful and we feel overwhelmed. Feeling this way is not healthy or productive. What can be done to alleviate some of the stress? There are some simple strategies that can help to maintain a level of organization in our lives and lower personal stress levels.

One strategy is to take a few moments each morning to plan your day. Making a list is a great way of seeing what needs to be done and looking at how realistic the list is or where you can combine things to make your efforts more efficient. When your list is complete, prioritize the tasks that you hope to accomplish. Once you have prioritized everything, cross off the nonessential tasks. If it is not absolutely necessary, then forget about it, at least for now. Also, if you want something done and can see that you simply do not have time yourself, delegate it. This allows you to see the project completed but does not cut into your own limited time to complete those items you have prioritized on your list.

Finally, take the time to do a quality job. So many times we rush through life doing things in a hurry only to find that the quality of the job was not satisfactory and the task needs to be redone. I was also told if you do not have time to do it right, you will never find time to do it over. It is a much better use of time and effort to do it correctly the first time.

The truth is, that even by incorporating these simple strategies, time management will be elusive to most of us. The dictionary notes that time is "the point or period at which things occur" or to put it more clearly, time is when things happen. Although we look at a clock and say, there are 60 minutes in an hour and 24 hours in a day, and all of these things should fit within that time. However, in reality things do not. Despite our best efforts to accomplish everything we set out to complete, life happens in real time and something always seems to get in the way. While it is a common response, stressing out does not help but instead can actually make things worse. When faced with sense of being overwhelmed due to lack of time and too many responsibilities, the current popular mantra may be applicable: Keep Calm and Carry On. In the meantime, for more time management and stress relieving tips, check out the Watco University course, Avoiding Time Stealers.
**WSOR delivers quilts**

by Doug Hartman & Terri Klapperich  
WSOR Customer Service

On a foggy October morning, a steady stream of cars, trucks and vans flowed into Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s (WSOR) Madison yard delivering approximately 60,000 lbs. of quilts made by church groups from across the southern tier of Wisconsin.

For more than twenty years the WSOR has partnered with Lutheran World Relief for this special event. Thousands of donated items, which were packed into two WSOR box cars by volunteers, are destined to help groups as diverse as Hurricane Sandy survivors to African refugee camps. Leading the volunteer campaign was Bob Topel, retired Marine, and John Mix, Chaplain of the Dodge County Jail.

Chaplain Mix, who has 20 years experience as a freelance artist, called this “the gathering of the quilts.” Picture in your mind the local women in church basements making these. Some of the quilts are beyond beauty. He was staggered by the amount - 425,000 - packed one box at a time.

Topel had nothing but praise for the WSOR. From the wonderful access and room to unload to the help provided by the WSOR Car Department.

“Working with the WSOR has been nothing but a pleasure. If it wasn’t for the WSOR we would have to truck all of this to Minneapolis and then load it on to rail,” said Topel.

While there was a light-hearted feeling among all of the participants, safety was at the front of Topel’s mind. As each new group of volunteers arrived he gave a thorough safety briefing.

“We want to make sure that everyone involved knows all the potential hazards and how to keep ourselves safe,” said Topel.

Chris Reid, a 9-year veteran of the Janesville Car Department, was on hand to assist.

“It did me good to see the generosity of so many,” said Chris.

A lady, Martha, from Illinois, brought 149 quilts. Mike Leck of Leck trucking donated his time and truck for the day. Mike’s normal duties have him hauling a hopper for some of our grain Customers including Farm City Elevator and Badger State Ethanol.

At the end of a busy five hours, both railcars were filled and sealed up for the trip to the Baltimore Distribution Center. While the cars do not care what is in them, the people on the receiving end sure do.

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**Eastern Idaho Railroad's Team Members promote safety in the schools**

Sean Crowe is always looking for ways to improve safety, even when he’s not at work as Eastern Idaho Railroad’s (EIRR) Assistant Track Supervisor. Crowe noticed that the crossing guards at the local schools in Twin Falls were equipped with nothing more than a stop sign as they entered the crosswalk. He didn’t think that was enough to protect the students.

Crowe then visited with the EIRR TS&IC (Team Safety & Improvement Committee) and came up with the idea of donating the safety vests to make the crossing guards more visible to oncoming traffic.

“We had extra vests that we weren’t using and decided... hey, we could afford to help the community out and improve the safety for these kids. Unfortunately, some people don’t really pay attention to kids in the crosswalk as much as they should. The vests have reflective striping on them, two different bright colors on them... I think they’ll work out great,” said Crowe.

Crowe and TS&IC Member Chris Nielsen presented the Twin Falls School District with safety vests for the student crossing guards on Thursday, October 24th.

The railroad donated a total of 18 safety vests which will be distributed to all of the other schools in the district.

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**Glendale facility delivers 62 loads in 2 days**

The Glendale, Arizona Team came through big as Metro Rail continues work on the light rail’s Northwest extension. The team had to deliver 62 loads of 80’ girder rail for a special project in the Valley for the expansion of the Metro Rail.

Team members working on the project were drivers: Ivan Ferrin, Robert Su’u and Joe Sandoval and loaders: Robert Martinez and Tenos Barajas. Office manager Adelita Barajas also helped to ensure all went as planned during the quick turn-around.

Adelita said, “I’m very proud of the team for their hard work and determination. I must say, it was definitely teamwork; we all played a very important role in getting this project done in a safe and timely manner.”

“Communication played a major role in this project and I am extremely proud to be a part of this team,” added Adelita. “Safety was our #1 priority and we were able to pull it off without any injuries or incidents.”

The Northwest extension of the Metro Rail light rail is projected to be completed in 2016 and will 3 miles to the 20 mile network already in place.

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The Dispatch welcomes and encourages input from all readers. If you are interested in submitting articles, story ideas, photos and announcements (wedding, birth, etc.) e-mail them to:

trave@watcocompanies.com or mail to:

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Stanley terminal’s train count reaches 1,000

A frigid December day in 2009 marked the departure of the first crude by rail train from the Stanley, N.D., terminal. That New Year’s Eve was the beginning of a partnership with Watco and EOG Resources which has brought about other joint ventures.

On October 30th the team in Stanley, hit a big milestone, the loading of their 1,000th train.

“This is a great milestone to hit,” said Dion Weichel, terminal manager. “We’ve accomplished a lot in the past few years. Our team has provided a service to our Customer safely, accurately, and on time following the Customer First Foundation Principles.”

There are 66 team members working at the terminal which loads 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The team in Stanley is responsible for loading the crude onto the unit trains which normally will consist of 104 tank cars. The team works in extreme temperatures, from -40 degrees in the winter and reaching over 100 degrees in the summer.

The team has recently been notified that things are going to be ramping up and that they will be adding additional staff to keep up with projected demand.

Team members at the Stanley facility are: Amy Hopkins, Andrew Roe, Benjamin Hiltner, Benjamin Nordloef, Brian Dokken, Brian Gerhart, Brittany Peery, Brock Bjelland, Brody Wolff, Bruce Rudland, Christopher Roth, Cole Holter, Corey Rice, Craig Dutenhafer, Craig Haider, David Lewis, Dion Weichel, Donovan Hudson, Duane Helms, Duane Nelson, Earl Bruce, Edward Brien, Elyse Nienow, Gary Roberts, Gerry Knutson, Grant Huff, James Ballard, James Walker, Jayden Sjol, Jeannine Bonnette, Jeff Swenson, Jeffery Nadeau, Joe James, Joseph Degenstein, Joseph Sullivan, Joshua Buec, Kacey Krueger, Kandace Miller, Kathy McCormack, Keith Bowman, Kevin Fetzer, Kevin Flammang, Kevin Roth, Kyle Forsman, Laura Wilhelm, Lawrence DesRoches, Lynn Clark, Marcus Lawrence, Mark Miller, Matthew Staudinger, Michael Vaughan, Nickolas Saunders, Rebekah Bolton, Reed Kunnanz, Richard Lakoduk, Robert Hill, Roger Schlacht, Ryan Stroik, Scott Beede, Scott Shorb, Scott Wolff, Shane Kunnanz, Tammy Hambek, Todd Johnson, Travis Muscha, Troy Johnson, Ty Schoon, Victoria Tw, and Wayne Smith.

Neodesha shop’s TS&IC holds Team Member picnic

By Josiah Gonzalez
TS&IC Leader, Neodesha Mechanical Shop

It was perfect weather on September 14th for the Neodesha, Kan., team member picnic, hosted by the TS&IC. Independence Riverside Park was the stage for this fun filled event, team members and their families had the options of playing miniature golf, taking a ride on the carousel or touring the grounds on the train.

Appetites were filled with hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, and chips - washed down with some ice cold soda, water, or tea.

The day was finished off with many door prizes and some piñatas, with two grand prize winners Jason Hopkins, and Tony Vail.

Thank you to all for coming and to all that helped to make this a successful event.

WSOR BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) was recently featured in October’s issue of Railway Track & Structure magazine. The article, written by Mischa Wanek-Libman, talks about the bridges on the WSOR and how the team works to maintain them.

The WSOR has 354 total structures on its system, including 157 (45 percent) steel structures, 139 (39 percent) timber structures, 29 (eight percent) stone structures, 21 (six percent) concrete structures and the remainder comprised of miscellaneous material.

The article can be found at www.rtrackands.com under the Track Structure heading.

Top: Pumper operators load tank cars at the Stanley, N.D. terminal. Bottom: Members of the Stanley Team.

Top photo: Working on bridge B-190 on the Madison Subdivision in Madison, Wis. Middle photo shows the completed bridge with a capacity of 286,000 lbs. Bottom photo is of the crews performing a stringer replacement on bridge B-156 on the Madison subdivision.
**Weddings**

**Jameson-Shanholtzer**

Amanda Jameson and Chanc Shanholtzer were united in marriage on October 12th. An evening backyard ceremony was held at their home in McCune, Kan. Amanda is the Transportation Administration Assistant for Mitch Becker and Chance owns and operates Flying S Trucking.

The couple honeymooned in Branson, Mo., and reside in McCune with their two boys, Landon, 2 yrs., and Tuf, 8 months.

**Student travels to Russia**

By Katie Hayes  
*University of Kansas Senior*

This summer, with the help of Watco and many friends and family members, God blessed me with the ability to go to Russia with FOCUS (Fellowship Of Catholic University Students). A total of 11 other students and focus missionaries traveled across the world to Vladivostok, Russia. In Vladivostok we stayed with Fr. Myron, a priest who came to Russia after the collapse of communism. He has since then started 12 parishes and a religious order. The sisters of his religious order helped us throughout our mission trip as translators.

Less than twenty-four hours after our arrival in Vladivostok, we traveled six hours to a small village on the boarder of China called Lesozavodsk. Our accommodations were small apartments (about the size of four sleeping bags), similar to where whole families live. While in Lesazavodsk, we held a five-day camp for children, five to thirteen years old. These children normally don’t get three meals a day and live in abused and broken homes. We were given the opportunity to care for them and love them. We fed them breakfast and lunch, sang Russian hymns, played sports, made crafts, swam in the river, and even taught them how to brush their teeth. We prayed with the children and with the help of our translators, we taught them about God’s love.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Congratulations to the following team members celebrating their anniversaries!

- **1 Year:** Walter Abney, Matthew Adams, Frank Barber, Patrick Black, Dennis Burt, Kenyun Canada, Kenny Coberley, Russell Cunniff, Matt Despos, Jeffrey Ebarb, Amber Gardner, Jason Gasway, Micaela Gerler, Azarel Guzman, Jef fery Headley, Karman Hogsett, Aaron Jensen, Leann Kennedy, Kacey Krueger, Logan Leggett, Ryan Luetzow, Teddy Mai, Steven Mancillas, Leonard Medrano, Christian Meeker, Marlon Moore, Adrian Morgan, Eric Powers, Zachary Pumphrey, Amber Rickens, Ronda Rustad, Dexto Sepulvado, Robert Shaffer, Timothy Showalter, Cody Tracy, Michael Trru, Bobby Wauneka, Orlando Williams, Nicholas Wright
- **2 Years:** Matthew Barr, Gregory Bartholomew, Brooke Beasley, Shane Bensong, Richard Bowen, Amanda Brisbin, Jaimie Brooks, Jessica Cancino, James Chinowth, John Coon, Eric De Hoyos, Justin Gaulrapp, Brent Henson, Robert Hill, Geoffrey Holder, Cole Holter, John Janikowski, Melissa Jasper, Jonathan Key, Tara Kuenzel, Mark Kusch, Hilda Morin, Zachary Parker, Ty Schoon, Jayden Sjol, Shane Staton, James Swink, Aaron Tombsky, Eric Turner, Robert Wakley, Robert Warnbord, Mimi Waterhouse, Jacob Welsch, William White, John Wiebelhaus, Chad Wiechman, Gregory Wooldridge
- **3 Years:** Courtney Burks, Alan Cheek, Bobby Curtis, Michele Howard, Matthew Kuebrich, Tim Lewis, Shane Martin, Kyle Mayfield, Bryant Peeples, Edward Romero, Keldon Scales, James Schaffer, Keith Singleton, Kevin St Aubin, Timothy Stephens, James Tyler
- **4 Years:** Octaviano Barbosa, Jonathan Conerly, Chad Davis, Kevin Hampton, Jonathan Hogan, Jason Hubach, Ryan Johnson, Brian Kemp, Jacob Link, Jacob McChesney, Jason Moore, Devanel Nash, Carl Reed, Jose Romero, Bradley Scott, Jeff Swenson, John Walker
- **5 Years:** Ken Addison, Earnest Austin, Derek Brau, Shamard Dright, Andrea Harville, Travis Hodge, Joseph Magruder, Donald Mixon, Jeffrey Pierce, Kathleen Sackett, Gennifer Swisher, Melinda Swisher, Aaron Williamson
- **6 Years:** Edgar Bazaldua, Kelly Callahan, Charles Chipman, Shawn Coates, Lydia Davilla, Armando DeLeon, Michael Harlan, Kevin Jeter, Thomas Kennedy, Lisa Palomo, David Rotz
- **7 Years:** Aubrey Dillard, Robert Hampton, Joshua Jewell, Afton Lundy, Marvin Minar, Luis Rivera, Earl Sims, Kenneth Socie, Ron Spencer
- **8 Years:** Gregg Bergholz, Philip Billingsley, Dale Bright, Robert Bruner, Jeffrey Darnell, Betsy Foster, Robert Godfrey, Larry Lenington, Barbara Moore, Dave Ruggles
- **9 Years:** Rick Baden, Joshua Braden, Zachary Henwood, Michael Marino, James Meyer, Dale Reeser, James Stapleton, Thomas Woldor
- **10 Years:** Robert Powell, Eric Slimp, James Wolf
- **11 Years:** Francis Mangiacarne, John Streich, Roy Wallace
- **12 Years:** Jimmy Johnson, Randall Martineau, Gerald Wiser
- **13 Years:** Larry Cymbola
- **14 Years:** Steven Ayala, John Grassinger, Joseph Haase, Kelley Scarow
- **15 Years:** Fernando Avila, Robert De Luna, Timothy Hoffman
- **16 Years:** Edward Cullinan, Lloyd Huston, Don Slaughter, Carol Toris
- **17 Years:** Lloyd Henderson, Paul Loper, Brian McCoy
- **18 Years:** Chad Byles
- **20 Years:** Carlos Barnes, John Brown, Jack Lisle, John Ostrander, Terry Showalter
- **21 Years:** Chad Chadwick, Charlie Everson, Thomas Murray
- **22 Years:** James Belsha, Bennie Hill
- **24 Years:** Floyd Swoke
- **25 Years:** Charlie Estes, Howard Green, Kenneth Jordan
- **26 Years:** David Louk
- **28 Years:** David Bidleman, Vic McClure, William Norris
- **30 Years:** Rolan Herman, Kenneth Williams, Ronald Wissinger
- **32 Years:** Roy Thomas
- **33 Years:** Louis Sage
- **34 Years:** Gilbert Spencer
- **35 Years:** James Ellis
- **38 Years:** Herbert Liddell

After the camp in Lesozadodsk we traveled back to Vladivostok for a few days of resting, exploring and visiting an orphanage. We then traveled four hours by bus to Nakhodka to the 17th Annual Far East Catholic Conference, an eight-day event held at former Soviet children’s camp. At the conference we heard talks, shared meals and interacted with Russian Catholic young adults. The most powerful part of the whole conference was the bilingual daily prayer and the stories about Catholics in Russia.

Left: Katie Hayes with a few of the children she met while on her mission trip to Russia.
Walking your daughter down the aisle on her wedding day is an emotional moment for most fathers, but to step it up a notch, Watco Team Member Brent Shepard performed the ceremony as well.

Not only did Shepard have the duty of performing the ceremony, he had to help plan the wedding - in a short 72 hours.

“No, it’s not what you’re thinking,” laughed Shepard.

“My daughter had set a wedding date this summer and then her fiance, who is from Canada, received word that there had been a change in the law and that the bible school he was attending in Baton Rouge was revoked their Student VISA. So, although the school was trying to work out the bugs on their end, we were working on Plan B, as time was of the essence.”

The wedding was held on a Monday evening, the weather was absolutely perfect. It was a beautiful wedding and special day for not only my daughter but for me as well!”

Watco Team Member officiates daughter’s wedding

Top: Brent Shepherd, financial/business analyst, and his daughter Mikaela. Bottom: Mikaela and her groom Adam Denoon.

Thank You Veterans

Fifty-nine years ago history was made in Emporia, Kansas with the proclamation of Veterans Day. It started in 1919 when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I. The end of the war happened at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, so that’s why November 11 was chosen. Armistice Day celebrated veterans of World War I, but one Kansan, Alvin King, felt all veterans deserved recognition.

King was not a military man himself but his nephew was killed during the invasion of Normandy, France. King suggested Armistice Day be changed to Veterans Day to celebrate all veterans. The proposal was taken to Congress, which approved, as did President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In 1954 Veterans Day was celebrated nationally for the first time.

Veterans Day is one day of the year that is set aside to recognize veterans of both wartime and peacetime. However, it’s best to celebrate Veterans Day every opportunity you get. When you see anyone in a military uniform, take the time to thank them for all they, and their families, have done for us. Although these military men and women are blessed to have not given the ultimate sacrifice, their contributions to our country and willingness to put their life on the line are appreciated and they should be celebrated.

It is the Veteran

It is the Veteran, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the Veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the Veteran, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the Veteran, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the Veteran, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.

It is the Veteran, who salutes the Flag.

It is the Veteran, who serves under the Flag.

To be buried by the flag.

So the protester can burn the flag.

Anonymous