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# AWWA CONNECTIONS®

March is Women's History Month

## Water field brimming with outstanding women

In anticipation of [Women's History Month](#) in March and [International Women's Day](#) on March 8, *Connections* is highlighting four "women in water" who were featured over the past year in the American Water Works Association's (AWWA) Member Spotlights.

These remarkable professionals represent the social, economic, cultural and political achievements that women can obtain when they gain access to opportunities. Their contributions also reflect the daily efforts of all water professionals who help provide safe, reliable water for their communities.



[Terry Glenn](#) (pictured above), 96, was the first woman to earn a mechanical engineering degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., in 1943. She went on to a distinguished career with Greeley and Hansen's Chicago office, working on water and water treatment projects around the United States. After her retirement at age 65, she continued as a consultant for more than 20 years.

"I liked going to different pumping stations by myself, but at first they didn't want to send me into the field by myself," said Glenn, who lives in Portland, Ore. "I thought that was nonsense. I went to every kind of neighborhood before I was through and never found one that I considered dangerous." [Read More...](#)



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## WIFIA loan helps “Secret City” rebuild treatment plant

A city built in months to help develop the atomic bomb during World War II now needs several infrastructure upgrades.

“We basically need to rebuild a town that was built all at one time,” said Mark Watson, city manager of Oak Ridge, Tenn. “It has all deteriorated at the same time.”



One of those projects is a new drinking water treatment plant that will be partly financed by a loan through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act](#) (WIFIA). *(Pictured above, current Oak Ridge water treatment plant)*

“We had a \$42 million project spread over 15,000 community customers and one big customer, the Department of Energy,” Watson said. “How do we finance that? We had to come up with something unique that wouldn’t create such a rate shock.”

WIFIA provides long-term, low-cost supplemental loans to improve the nation’s water and wastewater infrastructure. In 2017, EPA selected Oak Ridge, a utility member of the American Water Works Association, as one of 12 projects nationwide. The city closed on the WIFIA loan in late 2019. [Read More...](#)

## Student program ignites Oklahoma community’s support of water sustainability

Through a shared interest in supporting water sustainability and public education, the city government and public schools in Broken Arrow, Okla., are providing hands-on, outdoor learning opportunities about water quality and flood protection for local students.



The inspiring laboratory settings include a city-owned regulatory wetland preserve *(pictured above, student wetland project)* and a regional wet detention facility. They are connected by Tiger Creek, a natural floodplain water course owned in partnership by the city and the schools.

These natural and man-made water features surround and border the high school campus on one side of the creek. On the other side is a combined elementary school and early childhood

center.

This partnership between the city and schools, called the Together Project, enables students to learn about ecological systems, environmental sustainability and water quality issues while collaborating with community experts to solve local problems. [Read More...](#)

#### AWWA Member Spotlight

## Army veteran's construction expertise leads to successful water career

Reggie Upson, Denver, Colo.

Reggie Upson (*pictured right*) has just about done it all when it comes to installing and maintaining the infrastructure that delivers water.

But squeezing through a 24-inch pipe to inspect its welded joints or pulling an all-nighter in subzero temperatures to fix a main break, “that’s when you really earn your paycheck and start thinking about an office job,” he joked.



Raised in the Washington, D.C., area, Upson was a welder in the U.S. Army for two years before moving to Colorado. In his new state, Upson worked in construction and was part of a crew that built the underground train tunnels between concourses at Denver International Airport.

In 1993, he landed an entry-level job working in the field for Denver Water’s water distribution group. For 14 years, he worked on hydrants, valves, pipes, mains -- just about everything the department maintains. During that time, Upson worked his way up to be a crew foreman and then a supervisor in the department, responsible for several field crews. [Read More...](#)

## Upcoming Events

[Membrane Technology Conference](#) / Mar. 16 - 20 / Phoenix, Ariz. / AWWA conference

[Water Data Nerd](#) / Mar. 25 / AWWA webinar

[Sustainable Water Management Conference](#) / Mar. 29 - Apr. 1 / Minneapolis, Minn. / AWWA conference

[International Symposium on Inorganics](#) / Apr. 14 - 15 / Denver, Colo. / AWWA conference

[WaterNow](#) / Apr. 15 - 16 / Philadelphia, Pa. / AWWA partner conference

[Drought Preparedness and Response](#) / Apr. 22 / AWWA webinar

## Level 2 water treatment operator course starts March 16

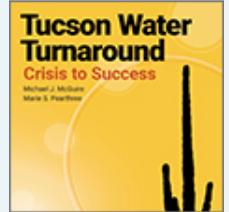
Participants can register now to learn concepts and practices about conventional water treatment processes, membrane/UV processes and basic laboratory and sampling skills.

The course provides in-depth information about the successful treatment of surface and groundwater treatment. [Learn More.](#)



## Latest AWWA book about Tucson Water turnaround

In the 1990s, Tucson Water changed water sources without realizing the limitations of its existing distribution system or the taste and odor effects for customers. The new water caused pipe corrosion for customers, damaged the distribution system and created a public relations nightmare. The authors, who conducted extensive research, share detailed information about how this crisis occurred, early attempts to address it and how it was finally resolved. [Learn More.](#)



*AWWA Connections* is published every other Friday for members. It features water community news and colleague profiles, opportunities to engage and network, career development tips and more. If you have a comment or story idea for *Connections*, please contact us at [connections@awwa.org](mailto:connections@awwa.org).