



**“RE-BUILDING THE CITY’S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY”**

# **Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS**

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To: News Media  
From: Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans  
Re: Sullivan Retires After 36 Years with S&WB  
For Immediate Release: August 20, 2008  
Contact: Robert Jackson, 269-7978, or Brenda Thornton,  
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## **G. Joseph Sullivan Retires as S&WB General Superintendent After 36 Years of Remarkable Service**

G. Joseph Sullivan, general superintendent of the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans, is retiring today after 36 years of service to the Board.

He will become general superintendent emeritus and consulting engineer with the Board.

His replacement will be Joseph R. Becker, a 21-year employee of the Board who has served as deputy general superintendent for the past 15 months.

Marcia St. Martin, S&WB executive director, said, “Under Mr. Sullivan’s watch, much of our modern and efficient water, sewer and drainage systems were constructed. The Board, City and all citizens have benefited from his dedication, expertise, longevity and love for his work. He will be greatly missed, but will always be a part of the Sewerage & Water Board.”

In 1972 Sullivan was appointed general superintendent by Mayor Moon Landrieu. He is only the 5<sup>th</sup> person to occupy the position since 1899. In the 36 years that he has been a part of the Sewerage and Water Board, he has overseen the expansion of every system the agency operates.

Sullivan led the post-Katrina recovery of the Board. He has been involved with the Corps of Engineers construction of flood gates at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal and other outfall canals, the restoration of drainage and sewer pumping stations and treatment plants, power plant recovery, water distribution and a myriad of other on-going projects.

He is credited with several inventions, which increased the effectiveness of the sewer, water and drainage systems, one of which was a screen cleaner to prevent high water in drainage canals due to trash blocking the screens and intakes of the major pumping stations. Sullivan developed a screen cleaner that brought the canal level down to the elevation of the pumping station intake sump which reduced labor and the cost of removing the debris by hand.

Sullivan will be honored at a special event to be held Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> at the World War II Museum, featuring remarks by Board members and dignitaries, a remembrance slide presentation, special recognition by The Honorable C. Ray Nagin, mayor and president of the S&WB, remarks by Mr. Sullivan and a receiving line and reception

Several hundred guests will honor Sullivan for his outstanding and remarkable service to the Board and the City of New Orleans.