

## WILLIAM R. GIANELLI

When William R. Gianelli became Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) in April 1981, he brought with him 35 years' experience in the field of water resources development. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1941 with a BS in civil engineering and a reserve commission in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. On active duty during World War II, Gianelli rose to the rank of major in positions from platoon leader to battalion executive officer. He served with Engineer troops engaged in building airfields, water supply facilities, and other construction projects at installations in Hawaii, Saipan, Okinawa, and Korea.

In January 1946 Gianelli began ten years' service in the State Engineer's Office of his native California. Next he served in the California State Department of Water Resources (1956-1960) and was the senior partner in the firm of Gianelli and Murray, consulting civil engineers (1960-1967).

When Ronald Reagan became governor of California in January 1967, he appointed Gianelli to head the State Department of Water Resources. In that position Gianelli supervised the completion of the first phase of the California State Water Project, at the time the largest non-federal water conservation and conveyance system of its type ever built. The first phase involved constructing facilities at a cost of \$1.5 billion. The direct beneficiaries provided a large portion of the project's cost.

Gianelli left government service in 1973 to return to consulting as a specialist in water supply and water rights issues. In that year the American Public Works Association named him one of the top ten Public Works Men of the Year and Engineering-News Record magazine named him Construction Man of the Year. He served under presidential appointment on the National Commission on Water Quality (1973-1976) and was chairman and a member of the board of directors of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (1978-1980).

In April 1981 President Reagan selected his former state water resources chief as Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). In that position Gianelli oversaw the civil works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, chaired the board of directors of the Panama Canal Commission, and administered the Arlington and Soldiers' Home National Cemeteries.

In three years as Assistant Secretary, Gianelli was responsible for major reforms in the Corps of Engineers' regulatory program that cut the average processing time for permits in half. He challenged the Corps to rethink its cost-sharing and project-financing policies. Under his direction the federal government obtained voluntary commitments to a higher level of non-federal funding for water projects, an important step in a period of fiscal restraint and shifting national priorities. The changes he introduced in the Corps' repayment policies accelerated the recovery of federal investments. In his role as overseer of Arlington National Cemetery, Gianelli was instrumental in obtaining congressional approval of funding for a permanent visitors' center. His efforts also culminated in the interment of a Vietnam War unknown soldier at the cemetery on Memorial Day 1984.

In a relatively short time, William R. Gianelli left an indelible mark on the civil works programs and policies of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In May 1984 he resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and returned to California. Gianelli works part time as a consultant and, under special legislation enacted by Congress in June 1984, continues to serve as chairman of the board of directors of the Panama Canal Commission.