

# NOAA REPORT



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## NOAA Team Photographs, Maps Damage from Pentagon, Trade Center Attacks

—By Jeanne Kouhestani

In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, many Americans had the will but not a way to help the victims and rescue efforts in this national tragedy.

Some within NOAA were fortunate enough to be able to provide direct assistance.

Among them were cartographers, geodesists and NOAA Corps pilots from the Remote Sensing Division of the National Ocean Service's National Geodetic Survey. They used their expertise and a specially equipped NOAA aircraft to map the wreckage sites of the World Trade Center and Pentagon to help

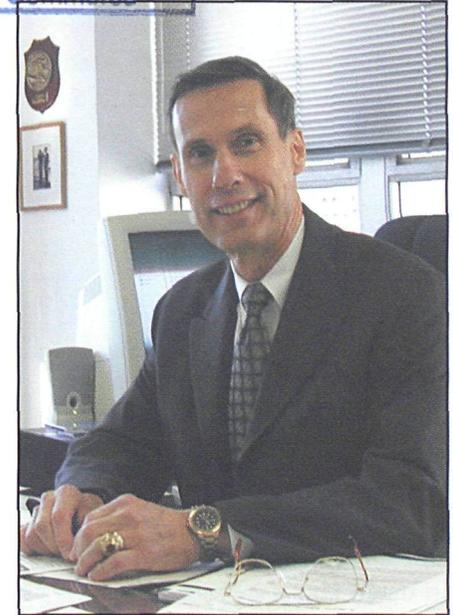
guide recovery efforts.

Flights over the New York site continued through mid-October as the volume of debris changed.

The transition from routine work to disaster response was a logical one, though a nightmare to coordinate.

NOAA's help was requested by the U.S. Army's Joint Precision Strike Demonstration Project office, which recently developed a special system with a Canadian firm, Optech, Inc., that uses LIDAR, short for light imaging detection and radar, to map terrain from an aircraft.

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Dane Konop/NOAA  
Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.

## President Bush Picks Vice Adm. Lautenbacher for Administrator

—By Dane Konop

In October, President Bush nominated retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., to be the eighth NOAA Administrator.

As the NOAA Report went to press, his Senate confirmation hearing was scheduled for early November.

Lautenbacher is known to some NOAA employees because of his position as president of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education in Washington, D.C.

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Sean Belsaw/Optech, Inc.

A NOAA LIDAR ground unit is set up at "Ground Zero" at the World Trade Center following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack to map the damage and help guide rescue and recovery efforts.

## Lautenbacher

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Details of his professional and academic background have emerged in messages from Commerce Secretary Donald Evans and Acting Administrator Scott Gudes: Naval Academy graduate. Advanced degrees from Harvard. Sea duty, including deployments off Vietnam and as commanding officer of a destroyer. Commander of the Third Fleet in the Pacific. Commanding officer of the Norfolk Naval Station. Adviser to General Schwartzkopf in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. A variety of Navy staff positions.

But to most NOAA employees, the flesh and blood man behind the resumé remains largely unknown.

In interviews in late September and October, Lautenbacher talked in detail about his career, his personal life and his views of the world, developed in a lifetime of public service.

Lautenbacher is first and fore-

most a retired naval officer. Although he's entitled to be addressed as "Dr. Lautenbacher" as the holder of a Ph.D., he prefers "Admiral Lautenbacher."

Dressed in civilian clothes, sitting in his CORE office in the center of the Capital City and looking every bit like the Washington attorneys and government insiders on the streets below, he said, "It took me 35 years to make admiral, so I like that association."

Lautenbacher retired from active duty on Oct. 1, 2000.

Since March of this year, he has been president of CORE, a Washington, D.C.-based association of 67 U.S. oceanographic research institutions, universities, laboratories and aquaria, working on ocean issues and the non-Navy side of oceanography.

"I would say I've had an intensive education in the last eight months or so, in being associated with NOAA and the civilian agencies that work in the oceans. Obviously, I'm very familiar with *continued on page 7*

## Eleven from NOAA Honored by President Bush

—By Dane Konop

Eleven NOAA employees received Presidential Rank Awards from President Bush in a ceremony at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., Oct. 15.

Dan Albritton, director of the Aeronomy Laboratory, received a distinguished executive award.

The following were named meritorious executives: Margaret A. Davidson, Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, David L. Evans, Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Mary M. Glackin, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, David M. Kennedy, Director of the National Ocean Service Office of Response and Restoration, Ants Leetmaa, Director of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, Alexander E. MacDonald, Director of the Forecast Systems Laboratory, Craig R. O'Connor, Deputy General Counsel for Atmospheric and Ocean Research and Services, James F.W. Purdom, retired Director of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service's Office of Research and Applications, Michael P. Sissenwine, Science and Research Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and Louis W. Uccellini, Director of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction.

The annual Presidential Rank Awards recognize career senior executives who "achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service." ☺



*Lautenbacher family photo*

*Susan and Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.*



Murphy family photo

Andrea Murphy.

## Andrea Murphy Is the Team Member of the Month

—By Glenda Tyson

Andrea Murphy, an analyst with Genwest Systems, Inc., of Edmonds, Wash., is the November Team Member of the Month.

Through her work with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Division of the National Ocean Service Office of Response and Restoration, Murphy is contributing to the protection of the environment, guarding against contamination of our coasts and helping to restore injured coastal resources.

In the last two years, Murphy has helped the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recover more than one million dollars from the polluters of Superfund sites. The Superfund Program investigates and cleans up hazardous waste sites throughout the country. The EPA provides funding for NOAA to work on coastal Superfund sites.

Murphy collaborated with other analysts to implement a new

document imaging system that electronically scans and indexes cost data. This system also backs up the data onto a CD-ROM for offsite storage, creating a much easier way to handle the complex data processes involved with cost documentation.

The old system was based on paper trails and multiple copies.

The new system will not only save time and space, but will help to increase the security of sensitive material. Instead of having numerous copies, there will be only two—one hard copy and the backup copy on the CD-ROM.

Colleagues of Murphy agreed that her excellent problem-solving skills have helped to significantly improve office productivity while inspiring successful teamwork. They said she is the consummate professional with positive responses under all circumstances, including the continual challenge of tight deadlines. Her energy and cheerful demeanor, they said, are always present and helps to set her apart from others.

“Andrea is very detailed, which is extremely critical for this type of work. She is organized and always follows through,” said Ellen Shaw, Murphy’s manager for this project.

Shaw added, “One of the hardest things about this job is dealing with so many different people. She handles it all with a great attitude!”

Murphy has worked for Genwest Systems, Inc., for over six years.

“I’m so grateful for my job, the fact that I can work in such a great, flexible place with people who are so affirming,” Murphy said. “I must confess to feeling surprised at receiving this award. I’m just trying to do the work, the same as everyone else. I feel very fortunate.”

Murphy recently earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Washington in Seattle, Wash.

She resides in Seattle. ☺



Linda K. Grasser/NOAA

Denny Sutton.

## Employee of the Month Is the Late Denny Sutton

—By Jeanne Kouhestani

Denny Sutton, the November Employee of the Month, was a man whose exceptional competence in the workplace was exceeded only by his love of people and ability to touch lives.

A talented computer specialist and one of the most highly valued employees at the Marine Operations Center of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations in Seattle, Wash., Sutton died in September from a heart attack.

“Denny was one of those people who made friends everywhere he went and at any station in society. He touched everyone in some way. Whether you were a scientist, commanding officer, deck hand, steward, engineer, fellow employee or just a visitor, you were drawn to him,” said his supervisor, Michael Webb, chief of the center’s Engineering Division.

Sutton was an accomplished  
*continued on page 7*

# Focus On...

## NOAA Goes Fishing with Paralyzed Veterans of America



Michael Bailey/NOAA

Ben Ritter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America of Tampa, Fla., examines an undersized red grouper before releasing it.



Michael Bailey/NOAA

Tamara Lawter, coordinator of the Great Plains chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, displays a Key West grunt, the first of many fish she caught.

—By Chris Smith

Sports are an integral part of many of our lives. We take things like running and jumping for granted. Not so for the 40 state athletic directors of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, who held their annual sports and recreation seminar in Tampa, Fla., in mid-October.

These dauntless individuals, most of whom depend exclusively on wheel chairs to get around, assembled in Tampa to plan their organization's aggressive athletic program for the next year.

"We get together every year to address a wide range of topics related to sports and recreational opportunities for our members," said Lt. Col. Lew Deal (USMC, retired), director of the association's outdoor sports development program. "Just because they're confined to wheel chairs doesn't stop them from participating in a wide range of healthy and competitive activities."

According to the association's director of sports and recreation, Bruce Scott, the organization has a dynamic sports program that includes competitive bowling, basketball, shooting sports and freshwater fishing. But few of its members had ever ventured into the world of saltwater angling. That's why, when the organization selected Tampa as their 2001 meeting site, Scott contacted Bill Price of NOAA Fisheries' Office of Constituent Services for help in arranging for the attendees to go deep sea fishing.

"We entered into a formal agreement to support the PVA  
*continued on page 5*

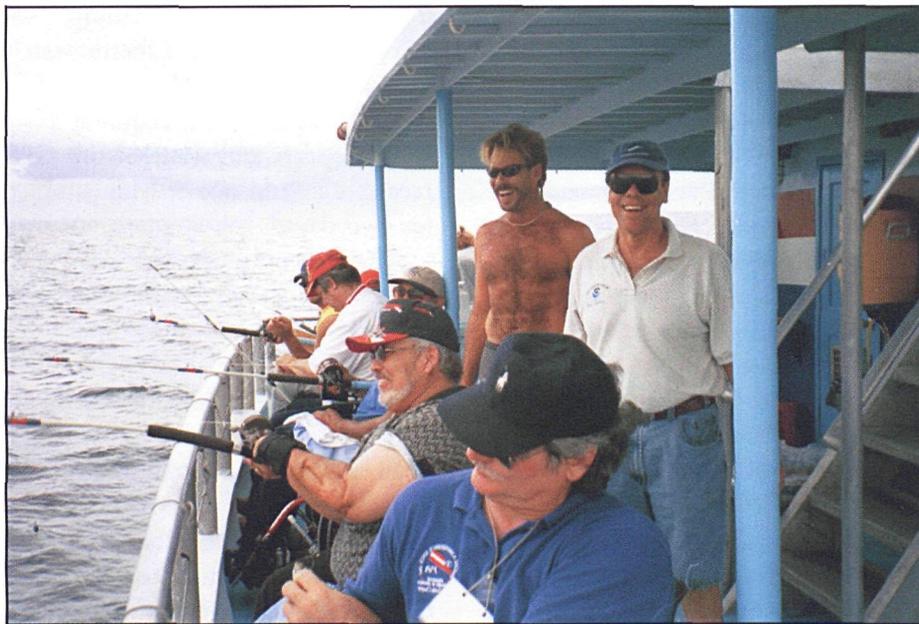
continued from page 4 during a ceremony held at the 'RecFish 2000' Symposium in San Diego.

"That agreement made it possible for NOAA Fisheries to accept the challenge of facilitating the PVA's plans for a fishing experience in Tampa," said Price. "Michael Bailey, our Gulf coast coordinator, worked closely with the PVA's local chapter and NOAA Fisheries southeast regional staff to organize a very successful outing."

The veteran's association chose to feature the fishing trip as their convention's kick off event on Sunday, Oct. 21.

Several members of the association's national headquarters staff joined nearly 30 paralyzed veterans, some accompanied by their spouses, in Clearwater Beach, Fla., where the group split into two parties.

The majority of the conventioners chose the more daring option of embarking aboard the fishing vessel *Double Eagle III* for a four-



Michael Bailey/NOAA

The shirtless skipper of the fishing vessel *Double Eagle III*, Capt. Luke, and Mark Godcharles of NOAA Fisheries southeast regional staff cheer on the enthusiastic group.

hour deep sea fishing excursion into the Gulf of Mexico. Mark Godcharles of NOAA Fisheries southeast regional staff and Bailey served as their assistants. Larry Kelley of the southeast regional staff, and Renee Roman, a NOAA

Fisheries port agent, accompanied the seven more wary members who chose to remain ashore to wet their lines from the safety of the Clearwater Municipal Pier.

Those who chose to go to sea were heartily rewarded with dozens of fresh grey snapper, brought over the rail amid shouts of "I got another one!" The afternoon was also punctuated with countless jokes, congenial taunting, as well as an unexpected encounter with a fierce thunderstorm that few will soon forget.

Those who stayed ashore enjoyed some wholesome fellowship and the Florida sunshine, but had only a single flounder to show for their efforts.

"It was a rare privilege to go fishing with this dedicated group of veterans," said Bailey. "Even without trying, they showed us how physical limitations can be overcome by determination and a positive attitude. Most of all, I gained an greater appreciation of the fact that there are no barriers strong enough to keep people from feeling the joy that accompanies any fishing experience." ☺



Michael Bailey/NOAA

Two veterans tend lines and wait for the fish to do their part.

## Mapping Damage

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Since the Army's own aircraft was in Korea, NOAA's Citation II jet, which has two aerial cameras, offered the perfect alternative to collect high-resolution digital terrain elevation data to support the Army's crisis response and urban operations.

The Remote Sensing Division uses the Citation, under the management of the Aircraft Operations Center in Tampa, Fla., to map the nation's coastlines from the air as well as map airports and identify positions of obstructions within the airport approaches—all using precise geographic reference points.

Four days after the attack, Mike Aslaksen, the Remote Sensing Division's staff cartographer, National Geodetic Survey colleagues Ed Carlson and Jason Woolard and two Optech technicians were at Ground Zero in New York, setting up GPS ground receivers at geo-referenced points that would provide the precise geographic framework needed to support the Citation's aerial photography and LIDAR mapping efforts.

Just driving into New York dealt a heartfelt blow to the men.

"I've driven down that corridor many times when I was doing field surveys. To come down the turnpike and not see the World Trade Center buildings was pretty emotional. Seeing that was really shocking," Aslaksen said.

Aslaksen said that the magnitude of destruction was overwhelming; the debris was spread over a huge radius, and the men had to improvise to get their heavy equipment into place.

"When we got there it was organized chaos. We couldn't get into the area with our vehicles," Aslaksen said. "We set up a calibra-

tion site and GPS base station across the Hudson at Liberty State Park in New Jersey where the ground was flat, then acquired a shopping cart and wheeled the GPS receivers in and out of Manhattan for two days."

The shopping cart was later replaced by an all terrain vehicle, courtesy of the New York Fire Department, which the NOAA team said was a tremendous help in accomplishing the job.

In the meantime, the Citation had flown from a project in Ohio to the Aircraft Operations Center in Florida to be modified for the Optech LIDAR it would be

carrying.  
Capt.  
Robert  
Maxson,  
director of  
NOAA's  
Aircraft  
Operations  
Center,

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*"As we started heading down, there became this kind of surreal feeling in the airplane, and for about three and a half hours the crew didn't say a word."—Citation pilot Lt. Cdr. Brad Kearsse.*

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was making numerous calls to the FAA to get a waiver for the Citation to fly over New York.

In Silver Spring, Md., Capt. Jon Bailey, chief of the Remote Sensing Division, who had just returned from an overseas vacation in time to find himself the project manager and media spokesperson, was coordinating NOAA's efforts among the various organizations involved.

Still awaiting clearance for its New York flights, the Citation flew to Optech offices in Toronto to have the LIDAR installed.

There were problems with its brakes; with the partial shutdown of air traffic, the part needed to fix them would take several days to arrive from the States.

However, Canada's equivalent to the American FAA came to the rescue.

"We called and asked them if they had the part for the Citation, and they got it to us within a day," said Lt. Cdr. Brad Kearsse, who

pilots the Citation. "The Canadians were wonderful; they helped us out to the max."

According to Kearsse, a lot of pieces had to fit together before the project could take off. It helped tremendously that NOAA already had contacts at some of the organizations it was working with. Also, in working with the FAA personnel who are used to working with the military, the NOAA Corps uniform was a big asset.

"The uniform and rank mean a lot to military types," Kearsse said. "That helped us move forward a lot more rapidly in making our flight arrangements, because they knew

they were  
dealing  
with  
another  
uniformed  
service."

Once  
the FAA  
cleared the

Citation to fly, Kearsse made calls to NORAD, the air defense agency, to ensure an F-16 wouldn't shoot them down. He also contacted air traffic controllers because the Citation was flying counter to an aircraft landing approach route. Finally, Kearsse, co-pilot Lt. Will Odell and National Geodetic Survey photographer Steve Nicklas were able to make the first of several four-hour flights over the World Trade Center.

"As we started heading down, there became this kind of surreal feeling in the airplane, and for about three and a half hours the crew didn't say a word. We all just kind of did our job and did what we had to do. It was a very quiet flight. In fact, it was mentioned a few times that 'this is about the quietest flight I've ever been on,'" Kearsse said.

Aslaksen and his field crew of Roy Anderson and Jason Woolard *continued on page 8*

## Lautenbacher

*continued from page 2*

the Navy portions of government—the Office of Naval Research and the Naval Oceanographic Office. I understand the projects they're working on, how they work and what they do," he said.

"I've become very familiar with the operations of NOAA, NSF and NASA. I've had the opportunity to meet a great many of the NOAA employees and I'm very impressed with the professionalism and the talent and the level of commitment. It's a marvelous organization. I think it's the centerpiece of what the United States ought to be doing in basic science in our environment. It's been a player over the years, and I appreciate the opportunity to join the team," he said.

At 59, Lautenbacher is vigorous, trim and very personable. He's candid and an easy conversationalist, with a quick laugh.

He and his wife, Susan, a middle school science teacher in Falls Church, Va., live in Fairfax County, Va. They have two grown children, Elizabeth and John, and four grandchildren.

"I enjoy interactions, yet I enjoy independent study as well," Lautenbacher said.

"Life is full of wonderful things, and I'm trying to experience them," he said. "I enjoy doing a variety of things. I've enjoyed just about everything I've tried to do in my life. And I probably try to do too much. I'm usually oversubscribed in what I'm doing."

Although he said he doesn't have much spare time, he likes "creative things."

He enjoys reading, mostly technical writing related to his work.

"I enjoy music," he said, "any kind of music—classical, blue grass, popular music. You name it, I like

it," he said. The last concert he attended was the Beach Boys.

He said he enjoys sports, especially golf, and the outdoors.

"I do woodworking. I like working in the shop. I probably own too many tools," he said. "I've built lots of things—cabinet work to construction. One of the things I did was put up a garage at my daughter and son-in-law's house in California. I renovated every bathroom and kitchen—took them all apart and put them back together again. I like to do plumbing, carpentry, electrical work, heating and ventilation," he said.

"If this NOAA job doesn't work out," he joked, "I could buy a truck. There's a ton of things to do out there."

Lautenbacher considers himself a deliberative person, a listener, sensitive to people, straight forward.

He said he assumes that those working for him will produce at 100 percent, unless he is proven otherwise, and that he sees his job as a manager as providing the work environment in which employees can achieve their full potential.

"People are the heart and soul of any organization," he said. "It's important to know what they do. It's important to stay in contact with them. And it's important to empower their mission, their spirit."

Lautenbacher says he is excited about the prospect of being NOAA Administrator.

"I think this is a critical time for the science community, particularly the oceanic and atmospheric sciences," he said. "I think we have a number of difficult environmental problems to work on. It's exciting to be involved at this time in history with an organization as large and influential and as professional as NOAA. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work there." ☺

## Sutton

*continued from page 3*

electronics technician when he began work with the forerunner of NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations in 1980. He quickly gained expertise about the equipment and systems used on NOAA ships, greatly expanding his electronics and computer talents.

He sailed on most of NOAA's fleet in support of NOAA's research, starting with the hydrographic survey ship *Rainier* and later focusing on the Pacific-based fisheries vessels.

His expertise was widely sought within the NOAA marine community.

But it was his wonderful way in interacting with people that is remembered most fondly.

Cdr. Tim Clancy remembers an adventure with Sutton in 1996, when they traveled together to Punta Arenas, Chile, to prepare and install hydro-acoustic/electronics gear on the Soviet ship *Yuzmorgeologiya*, a charter vessel doing NOAA fisheries research in the Antarctic. Despite a harried beginning—a federal government furlough had delayed Sutton's receipt of his passport until hours before he boarded the plane to Chile—Sutton cheerfully carried on.

"Denny was truly an ambassador of the U.S., and together we were able to get the ship rigged for the Antarctic living marine resources group of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center," Clancy said.

"We worked hard and built a strong working relationship with our Soviet comrades, which overcame language and cultural barriers, thanks to Denny's wit and personality. This type of support was what we all loved and will forever miss," he said.

Webb also remembers a story *continued on page 8*

## Mapping Damage

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and the ground crew from Optech and the Army set the stage for Citation flights over the Pentagon as well, using the global positioning system to position both ground and airborne mapping sensors.

"The Pentagon was different in that the destruction was on a smaller scale," Aslaksen said. "I was amazed at how resilient it was. Had it not been for the jet fuel and fire, the damage would have been far less."

According to Kearse, who again flew with Odell and Nicklas, "We were very aware of the sensitivity of the area in being so close in proximity to the White House. We had to make sure we kept clear of all prohibited air space and everything was coordinated properly with NORAD."

The high-resolution photography and three-dimensional LIDAR imagery that resulted from the Citation flights and ground support are being used to provide a very accurate geographic network.

According to Bailey, GPS technology fixes the latitude, longitude and height of a point on the ground and in space within five centimeters.

"Building and utility engineers at both disaster locations will be able to determine the location of original foundation support structures, elevator shafts, basement storage areas and building utility connections, enabling them to concentrate their digging and recovery efforts in the proper location," he said.

"We were very frustrated when the attacks occurred," Aslaksen said. "It pleased us to be able to help in some capacity. It did a lot of good for people here to know they could go home and tell their families that NOAA was doing something to help." ☺

## Research Employees of the Year



*Adrian Reed/DOC*

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research named its employees of the year Oct. 11 at the NOAA Science Center in Silver Spring, Md. The employees of the year are (left to right): Martin Hoerling, Climate Diagnostics Center, Boulder, Colo.; Michael Trainer, Aeronomy Laboratory, Boulder; Steve Hankin, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, Wash.; David Evans, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Research; Lt. Joel Michalski, Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory, Boulder; Thomas E. Ayers, Environmental Technology Laboratory, Boulder; Robert Roddy, Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, Miami, Fla.; and Louisa Koch, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research. Not pictured: Evan Forde, Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory.

## Sutton

*continued from page 7*

Sutton told him about that trip to the Soviet ship.

"The Russians, in trying to be good hosts, had purchased coffee makers and coffee beans to make their American guests coffee. However, it was forever weak, thin and tasteless. Instead of berating them on this poor coffee, Denny asked the mess woman how they made the coffee, not telling her that it was bad. She was eager to show how they were serving the guests, so she showed him the beans and the coffee maker—all good so far," Webb said. "So Denny opened the top of the coffee maker, and to his amazement, he saw coffee beans, not ground coffee. He asked if this was how they always made the coffee and was assured in very proud terms that it was. He

then proceeded to show them how to grind the beans to get ground coffee and put enough in the coffee maker. He solved the problem with great tact." ☺

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