

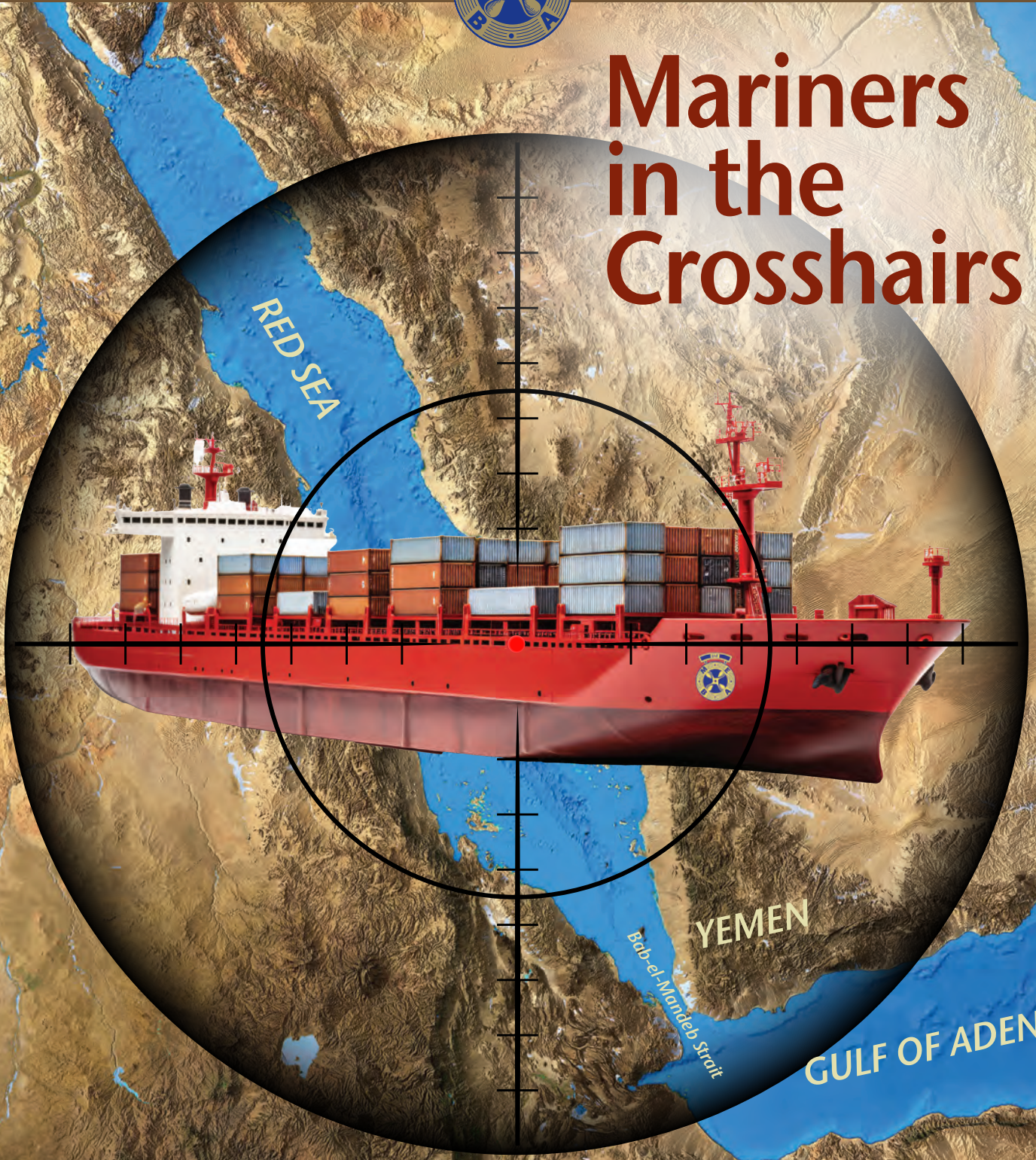
M.E.B.A.

MARINE OFFICER

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (AFL-CIO)
Spring 2024



Mariners in the Crosshairs



Faces around the Fleet



The engine crew during a drydocking of the APL PRESIDENT EISENHOWER. APL recently announced it is bringing in younger vessels to rejuvenate its MSP fleet. In back (l-r) are C/E Trevor Lapham, 1st A/E Nicholas Cabral, 2nd A/E Matthew Des Enfants, Jr. Engineer Jogene Cerezo and Wiper Ricardo Riota. In front (l-r) are Reefer Kevin Haymer and Electrician Ramon Cruz. Not pictured is 3rd A/E Gary Brister.



Lock & load! An arsenal of high-powered M.E.B.A. big shots came out in force to the Houston Propeller Club's annual Texas Clay Shoot in mid-September. Packing heat (l-r) are Mike Proia, Houston Rep. Jay Wedman, Dan Marymee, Jake Snyder (Texas A&M cadet), Ray Collector and Jim Moore.



Christopher Soileau at the dispatch window in Oakland with Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini and relief dispatcher Christian Yuhas. Chris recently graduated from California State University Maritime Academy and stopped by the M.E.B.A. Oakland Hall to sign up as an Applicant. Within minutes of signing on the dotted line, he was dispatched as 12x4 3rd A/E on the SS HORIZON SPIRIT.

On the Cover:

Houthi insurgents have conducted a campaign of missile and UAV attacks against commercial shipping in the Red Sea since November 2023, threatening freedom of navigation and international commerce in one of the world's most critical waterways. M.E.B.A. contracted vessels have been targets on several occasions and mariners operating in these waters face constant threats to their vessels and themselves. Beyond the physical and psychological toll on seafarers, the disruption of maritime trade routes due to Houthi attacks has led to delays in the delivery of essential goods and commodities, affecting global supply chains and economic stability.

Marine Officer

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The Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (M.E.B.A.) is the nation's oldest maritime labor union established in 1875. We represent licensed engine and deck officers aboard seagoing vessels, ferries, LNG and government-contracted ships. Our members also serve on tugs and barges, cruise ships, Great Lakes vessels and in various capacities in the shoreside industries.

In times of military contingency, our members sail into war zones to deliver critical defense cargo to our fighting forces. M.E.B.A.'s expertise and proven track record of readiness, safety and loyalty in answering America's call to action is unrivaled in the world.

M.E.B.A. does not tolerate assault, or harassment of any kind. If you see something, say something – The M.E.B.A. Emergency Hotline can be reached at 1-888-519-0018.

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A Message from M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac

Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

Everyone who has ever sailed deep sea is anxiously watching the events unfolding in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The US Merchant Marine always delivers the cargo, despite the danger. While that commitment is beyond question, they have not previously faced indiscriminate terrorist attacks in the form of missiles and drones raining down on them, particularly when America is not a participant in any current conflict with our vessels carrying mostly commercial cargo.

I want to applaud these unsung M.E.B.A. heroes, who have transited the high-risk waters or delivered cargo to Israel since the war started; several of our vessels have been attacked, with the reports from the deck vividly relaying the horrific experience, although no report can do justice to the reality of being there, including the stress of seeing and feeling the blasts in close proximity. At the time of this writing, I am grateful that all of our vessels have rerouted for safer journeys around Africa. American mariners will brave danger and combat zones to deliver materials to our warfighters; we signed up for that. We did not sign up to enter warzones simply to deliver furniture 2 weeks faster.

Over the last months I have been contacted by numerous members who have been forced to sail through these dangerous waters. I share their anxiety and frustration, which was especially acute while the U.S. and its allies took defensive measures but had not yet commenced strikes on the terrorists' infrastructure. Now that the latter are firm and sustained (and richly deserved), I applaud the President, the U.S. Military and the Maritime Administration for their efforts to defend us and the commerce we make possible. Our nation's ability to shoot down the multitude and seemingly endless threats from the terrorists with high success rates is impressive. The communication from the US Military and MarAd to maritime leaders, including me, has been excellent. They have repeatedly stressed that defense of US assets, including US-flag vessels, is the top priority.

However, civilian mariners and the ships they crew are not legitimate targets. Rest assured that my core message to Administration representatives remains that they need to take all necessary steps, military and otherwise, to stop any and all attacks aimed at US-flag vessels.

Plans 2.0

Many of you have likely heard that the M.E.B.A. Plans and the Trustees have embarked on a modernization project, called Plans 2.0. If you are a participant in the Plans, you should have received a Plans letter regarding the coming changes. This is a large undertaking and

will take time to complete, but great news in that it will substantially increase Plan efficiency and reduce errors, ultimately saving money that can be better used to fund benefits. The focus will largely be on integrating all of the Plan's software and departments so that they seamlessly communicate with each other, eliminating unnecessary human manipulation and data entry and identifying errors or delinquencies much sooner.

Part of the modernization requires M.E.B.A. and Company involvement, in that our pay structures are quite complex, which has led to many of the work-arounds and unique systems the Plans has had to contend with. The Companies and Union will be simplifying their contribution formats, with no change in actual contributions, to more straight forward numbers and processes that will reduce administrative burdens and prevent and catch errors sooner. Plans, as approved by both Union and Employer Trustees, will also require that all participating Companies submit data in one of two uniform formats, thereby ending the chaotic variety of forms the Companies have previously submitted and thus further reducing errors and complexity. Some of the administrative savings achieved by the modernization is going towards a Pension Parity fix, which rectifies the "donut hole" for those who are partially in the frozen pre-2012 pension plan and partially in the post-2012 pension plan. That fix is currently scheduled to take effect Jan 1, 2025.

Other changes brought about as part of Plans 2.0 is the addition of an option for participants to take an annual physical at their personal doctor. Those who like the M.E.B.A. clinics will still be able to use them as they do today, and it is important to note that most companies still require M.E.B.A. clinic annual physicals through at least 2025. So, if you sail deep sea, you are likely still required to attend an M.E.B.A. clinic in 2024 (check with your local representative if unsure). The final stage of the 2.0 update is the launch of a Plans Portal wherein any member can use their computer or device and see in real time all the information the Plans already has on you, i.e. status of medical claims, Pension accrual, vacation day value, etc.

I know there could be some disruptions as M.E.B.A. Plans takes on this significant and overdue modernization, but I am confident that the results will be worth the effort. As we proceed, please share your experiences with me or another Union official, so we can stay on top of any problems and fix them as they arise.

In Solidarity,

Adam Vokac





Officers onboard the MAERSK KINLOSS during a Texas port stop. Left to right are C/E Matthew Alonge, 3rd A/E Christopher Merola, 2nd A/E James Tavella and 1st A/E Matthew Boleza.



Member Alex Baird sent this one of members on the CMA-CGM HERODOTE (since renamed APL ISLANDER). He said the onboard electrician "had this sweet straw hat he would wear when he had to work on deck." Once the 2nd A/E found a similar chapeau in a Saipan store the other engineers got hatted up as well. From left to right are 2nd A/E Dan Posey, 3rd A/E Kris Chinen and 1st A/E Alex Baird. The photo was taken after they finished changing main engine injectors while in Saipan.



The engine room gang squeezed in for a photo just before a crew change on the Matson vessel MAHIMAHI. From left to right are Wiper Eddie Coloma, 2nd A/E Lucas Frank, Chief Engineer John Murphy, Engine Cadet Xavier White, Jr. Eng. Cynthia Philyaw and 1st A/E Jeff Newton.

Faces around the Fleet



1st A/E Thomas Adkins said the Seacor/Waterman M/V GREEN LAKE had the "best engine crew" on a recent run as they were headed to Pearl Harbor from an Australian port. Down below, aboard the PCTC were (l-r) GUDE Christian Barrera, 2nd A/E Marcus Kitchin, KP cadet Andrew Wilson, GUDE Saleh Abdulla, 3rd A/E Andrew Childers, C/E Kevin Schultz, 3rd A/E Dakota Yuknavich, and KP cadet Grady Ward.



Members and retirees gathered at the Norfolk Union hall to thank Plans Rep. Rhonda Warman for her 18 years of great service to the M.E.B.A. She was presented with cards, gifts and well-wishes as she took her well-deserved retirement. Left to right are Nate Gatchell, Will Hardinge, Chris Meyers, Will Demilio, retired Norfolk Rep. Tom Lilly, Rhonda, Dispatcher Ola Lassley, Norfolk Branch Agent Jack Menendez, Dan Scrivanich and Nicholas Ferre.

Red Sea Turmoil: M.E.B.A. in the Crosshairs

Despite a romanticized view of life at sea as full of freedom and adventure, seafaring is a profession fraught with peril. From isolation, cyberattacks, treacherous weather conditions and the looming threat of piracy, performing meticulous work on heavy machinery in rolling seas aboard a vessel laden with critical cargo is an act of true valor and sacrifice by today's merchant mariners.

Despite these formidable challenges, today's commercial mariners exhibit a purpose and fortitude that transcends the inherent risks. Their bravery and resilience in the face of adversity keeps the wheels of global commerce turning, ensuring the delivery of vital goods and resources to distant shores.

But as the challenges confronted during the COVID era largely recede, mariners face new complexities in "delivering the goods" following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war late last year. With Iranian-backed Houthi rebels hellbent on creating chaos for commercial shipping in the waters near Yemen, mariners in that part of the world continue to sail into harm's way in unarmed vessels. The Houthis originally vowed to target any ship with an Israeli link, but they have also unleashed their frequent guerilla-style attacks against any military or civilian ship in their proximity.

M.E.B.A. vessels have also been in the crosshairs of Houthi aggression and several of our vessels have even been targeted – a couple coming within a whisker of potential tragedy. The majority of the attacks have taken place in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial maritime passage connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. Located between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula, the Strait serves as a critical chokepoint for international shipping, particularly for vessels traversing the Suez Canal enroute to Europe, Asia, and beyond.

M.E.B.A.-contracted company vessels that have sailed through that strategic artery have included Maersk Line, Seacor/Waterman and Liberty Maritime. Our mariners aboard other Government-contracted vessels including Ready Reserve Force ships and M.E.B.A.-crewed Military Sealift Command Navy support vessels sailing in the area continue to remain vigilant - but do so with a renewed urgency in these turbulent times.

There has been a huge impact on the global supply chain as carriers divert their vessels from the Red Sea and Suez Canal approaches to the Cape of Good Hope, leading to nearly two weeks of increased transit times and additional costs.

Houthis have used a variety of weapons to target ships including attack drones, anti-ship cruise missiles, and anti-ship ballistic missiles. As they perform their work and try to maintain some semblance of normalcy, mariners transiting the area have relied on the U.S. Navy and their coalition allies to swat back these threats. Maritime unions have expressed their appreciation to the continued cooperation and information sharing they enjoy with the administration and military commands to ensure safe transits in the region. The U.S. and coalition have conducted multiple strikes against Houthi targets but have failed to deplete the capabilities of the separatists and the mayhem continues.

The bravery and resilience of merchant mariners in dangerous waters underscores the indispensable nature of maritime commerce and the sacrifices made by those who ensure its continuity. As the guardians of global trade routes, they embody the spirit of maritime excellence and ensure the age-old tradition of seafaring endures despite the perils that lie in wait.



The U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyer USS CARNEY neutralizing a combination of Houthi missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles in the Red Sea back in October.

UNION-MADE

GAME night

THE EMPLOYEES AT CARTAMUNDI EAST LONGMEADOW, A SUBSIDIARY OF CARTAMUNDI NORTH AMERICA, ARE REPRESENTED BY RETAIL, WHOLESALE, AND DEPARTMENT STORE UNION (RWDSU) LOCAL 224. THEY MAKE SOME OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN GAMES SURE TO INSPIRE A GREAT, UNION-MADE, FAMILY GAME NIGHT!



HASBRO GAMES

- » Ants in the Pants
- » Battleship
- » Battleship Grab & GO!
- » Bulls-Eye Ball
- » Candy Land
- » Candy Land Grab & GO!
- » Candy Land Ice Cream Party
- » Clue
- » Clue Bridgerton
- » Clue Conspiracy
- » Clue Diced
- » Clue Escape
- » Clue Ghostbusters
- » Clue Grab & GO!
- » Clue Junior
- » Clue Robbery at the Museum
- » Clue Sabotage on the High Seas
- » Clue Signature Collection
- » Connect4
- » Connect4 Grab & GO
- » Connect4 Spin
- » Cootie
- » Cranium
- » Crystal Caper
- » Don't Break the Ice
- » Don't Spill the Beans
- » Dungeons & Dragons
- » Dungeons & Dragons Bedlam in Neverwinter
- » Elefun Flyers
- » Galaxy Goldmine
- » Girl Talk
- » Grocery GoKarts
- » Guess Who Grab & GO!
- » Guess Who?
- » Guess Who? Junior
- » Guesstures
- » Hungry Hungry Hippos
- » Hungry Hungry Hippos Grab & GO!
- » Hungry Hungry Hippos Junior
- » Jenga
- » Jenga Maker
- » Ka-Blab
- » Life
- » Life Super Mario
- » Love is Dead
- » Magic The Gathering
- » Matching Game My Little Pony
- » Matching Game Peppa Pig
- » Matching Game PJ MASKS
- » Mayhem
- » Mix Matchies
- » Monopoly Junior Bluey
- » Monopoly
- » Monopoly Animal Crossing
- » Monopoly Avatar
- » Monopoly Barbie
- » Monopoly Bid
- » Monopoly Black Panther
- » Monopoly Builder
- » Monopoly Cheaters Edition
- » Monopoly Crooked Cash
- » Monopoly Deal
- » Monopoly Diced
- » Monopoly Discover
- » Monopoly Dungeons & Dragons
- » Monopoly Eternals
- » Monopoly Fall Guys
- » Monopoly Fortnite
- » Monopoly Game of Thrones
- » Monopoly Grab & GO!
- » Monopoly Junior
- » Monopoly Junior Super Mario
- » Monopoly Mandalorian
- » Monopoly Pizza Game
- » Monopoly Prizm
- » Monopoly Roblox
- » Monopoly Star Wars
- » Monopoly Super Electronic Banking
- » Monopoly The Falcon and the Winter Soldier
- » Monopoly Transformers Edition
- » Monopoly Travel World Tour
- » Mouse Trap
- » Not Your Ma's Jong
- » Operation
- » Operation Junior
- » Operation X-Ray Match Up
- » Pay Day Rivals Edition
- » Peppa Pig
- » Perfection
- » Pictionary
- » Pictureka
- » PJ MASKS HQ RESCUE
- » Pleasant Nonsense
- » Pokémon
- » Puzlit
- » Risk
- » Risk Junior
- » Scattergories
- » Scrabble
- » Scrabble Junior
- » Shuffle
- » Sorry Diced
- » Sorry Grab & GO!
- » Sorry Sliders
- » Speak Out
- » Sun Moon Rising
- » Taboo
- » Taboo Uncensored
- » The Game of Life Goals
- » Trivial Pursuit
- » Trivial Pursuit Mini Packs
- » Trouble
- » Trouble Grab & GO!
- » Trouble Spider-Man
- » Twister
- » Twister Air
- » Twister Junior
- » UNO
- » Wordle the Party Game
- » Yahtzee
- » Yahtzee TO GO
- » Yu-Gi-Oh!



M.E.B.A. Honored at Industry's Preeminent Awards Event



The M.E.B.A. was highlighted at the prestigious Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) achievement awards in December as President Adam Vokac accepted the maritime industry's highest honor on behalf of our membership. The accolades are presented by the United Seamen's Service to acknowledge the exceptional contributions of individuals and organizations made on behalf of American seafarers and the U.S. maritime industry.

In addition to President Vokac, George Pasha IV (President of M.E.B.A.-contracted Pasha) and Mark W. Barker (President of M.E.B.A.-contracted Interlake Steamship Company) were also presented with the iconic silver statuette of Christopher Columbus - the original "Admiral of the Ocean Sea."

The USS also annually honors U.S. mariners involved in rescues at sea and singled out two M.E.B.A.-crewed vessels for AOTOS Honored Seafarer Awards. The crew of the Staten Island Ferry SANDY GROUND, including M.E.B.A. Captain Joseph Ajar, were honored with the AOTOS Mariners Plaque for delivering passengers to safety following a fire. The crew of the Military Sealift Command replenishment oiler USNS JOHN LEWIS, including M.E.B.A.-represented engine officers, were also honored for their part in the rescue of the hapless occupant of a crippled sailboat.

During his remarks, President Vokac praised the M.E.B.A. and U.S. mariners saying that our Merchant Marine continues to persevere despite the dangerous world situation and continued attacks on commercial shipping. "It's what they signed up for," he said, "even though most never thought it would happen to them. This is the American mariner. We always deliver."



Inducted as "Admirals" at the 2023 AOTOS awards were (l-r) Pasha President George Pasha IV, M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac and Interlake President Mark W. Barker.

At the ceremony President Vokac recognized the sacrifices made by merchant mariners and the crucial role they play in our nation's economy and national security in peace, war and pandemic. He enumerated many of the hurdles the industry still faces and the need to promote and build a more robust American Merchant Marine that will be better equipped to tackle tomorrow's challenges. He said, "the M.E.B.A. and its members stand willing to meet the challenge. As often as possible, let's remember that our collective power brings a responsibility to think big thoughts, take on big issues, and work together creatively to chart the big voyages necessary to make those thoughts a reality."



Staten Island Ferry Crews Make History: Largest Contract in NYC's History Ratified After 13-Year Battle

A Message from M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha

On September 1st 2023, after 13 years of fighting for our worth, our members at Staten Island Ferry ratified what has been called the largest contract per person in New York City's history. The contract is 16 years long with 13 years of retroactive pay for all active and inactive members with some receiving over a million dollars individually. This is a testament to the hard work, grit, and determination of all the members involved.

It is also a wake-up call to our industry. These jobs have historically been the bottom floor (wage-wise) in our industry with the caveat that you would go home every night so you should make less. With the increase in salary, a Captain and Chief Engineer moving from approximately 70k base to 180k base annually that is no longer the case. The floor has been raised, so now we must raise the ceiling or blow the roof off completely. How do we do that?

It starts with knowing your worth. The Staten Island ferry officers sat for 13 years without a negotiated increase and understood they were worth more than what the city was offering. They were willing to say "no" to the status quo and fight for their wages. They banded together behind the Union and showed what uniting behind your collective worth can do. People always ask me what the Union is going to do for them. The answer I always give is 'what are you willing to do for yourself?' The M.E.B.A. is a sword, but it is up to you to wield this weapon. The members at Staten Island Ferry did, and are now the highest paid Ferry Officers in the country.

So how do we keep the sword sharp? It starts with representation. Making the halls a place where you want to congregate and visiting our members where they work. Knowing your priorities and what's important to you and your families. Dedicating time to all members whether they are serving in the Deep-Sea Fleet, Government Fleet, Inland, Great Lakes or shoreside. Fighting for your needs and communicating how we can deliver those needs. At Staten Island Ferry it took a considerable amount of time and effort to deliver this contract, but they never wavered and earned every penny they received.



At a Staten Island, NY press conference last year, M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha (hands raised) lauded the expert crews that keep the ferry running and called for them to finally receive the compensation they deserve. Sen. Chuck Schumer is at center and NYC Councilwoman Kamillah Hanks is at left along with several Staten Island Ferry crewmembers. NYCDOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez can be seen at far right.



M.E.B.A. mariners working in the Staten Island Ferry system were a presence at various NYC pickets and parades bringing attention to the City's failure to fairly compensate fleet mariners, a sentiment echoed by a great many New Yorkers and local politicians.



Following a 13-year battle by the M.E.B.A., the Staten Island Ferry went from the lowest to the highest paid public ferry system in the country.



M.E.B.A. and MM&P on the Staten Island Ferry SAMUEL I. NEWHOUSE. The vessel can carry as many as 6,000 passengers. Left to right are Captain Ryan Burtchell, Mate Tommy Ho, Tommy Tellefsen (MM&P), Frank Daskalakis (MM&P), Erasmo Fernandez (MM&P), Kenny Fernandez (Kneeling) (MM&P), Luigi Anderson (MM&P), Mate Keith Carney, Owen Drakes (kneeling in front) (MM&P), Assistant Captain Sammy Abdelmeguid and Mate Matt Meagher (kneeling at right). Thanks to Capt. Burtchell for the great photo!

OSA's LABOR HEROES OF 2023 THE MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (MEBA) AND ALL MEBA MEMBERS

New York City officials, faced with ambitious contract demands by municipal unions, typically play the waiting game. They figure time is on their side. Money they aren't paying out is gathering interest, while workers with housing and grocery expenses that tend to rise over time have difficulty holding out for what they and their leaders consider fair terms.

Unions with the nerve and patience to try sometimes find that delays of months in replacing expired wage agreements can turn into years.

Recently, Staten Island Ferry workers saw their faith in their union and Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association Secretary-Treasurer Roland "Rex" Rexha justified when they announced a deal – on Labor Day – that more than doubled salaries for Captains



and Chief Marine Engineers nearly 13 years after their old pact ran out. By the time it expires in early 2027, the record-length contract will have raised Captains' pay from \$71,000 to \$180,000, with a similar boost for Chief Marine Engineers.

Those huge increases, supplemented by large chunks of back pay

and improved vacation benefits (with some costs offset by money-saving changes in work hours and overtime rates) were made possible by MEBA's willingness to use the Prevailing Wage Law to get a favorable ruling from the City's Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings that prompted City Com-

troller Brad Lander to put his stamp on the contract terms.

During the press conference announcing the final deal, Secretary-Treasurer Rexha praised Mayor Adams as "a mayor who truly values the hard work of our members and comprehends the challenges our mariners face day in and day out."

But, it couldn't have happened without the willingness of the MEBA leadership, with the support of their rank and file through a lengthy period of financial sacrifice, to defy an intransigent Mayor Bloomberg and then endure nearly another decade without a raise before his decision was validated.

For that achievement, the Organization of Staff Analysts is proud to honor the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association and its members as our Labor Heroes of 2023.



ORGANIZATION OF STAFF ANALYSTS
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(212) 686-1229 • www.osaunion.org

OSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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OSA LABOR HERO AWARD WINNERS

- 2022 Harry Nespoli, Chair, Municipal Labor Committee
- 2021 The Prial Family - Publishers Of The Chief Newspaper For More Than A Century
- 2020 Dr. Mitchell Katz, CEO, NYC Health+Hospitals and our H+H Brothers & Sisters
- 2019 The MLC Health Technical Committee
- 2018 OSA's Dues-Paying Members
- 2017 Arthur Chelidotes & Gloria Middleton
- 2016 Joint UFT/OSA Organizing Team & OSA Uniformed Chapter Activists
- 2015 OSA Chief Negotiator Tim Collins

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At Anchor: Recent Retirees

Shifting into Reduced Operating Status

Curtis R. Adamski
 Jeffrey A. Andrade
 Richard B. Bartlett
 Matthew Bennett
 Niels E. Berg
 Todd K. Bliss
 Guillermo I. Bush
 Craig L. Calvert
 Allen A. Cooper
 Philip W. Crawford
 Robert L. Culton
 Robert B. Dahn
 Ralph W. Dasha
 John F. Daylor
 Timothy Freely
 Eric J. Goss

Bruce E. Hartwell
 Richard Hoop
 Dean T. Ivins
 David G. Johnson
 Keith Johnson
 Mohammad O. Khan
 Toby Kitchener
 Andy J. Lambert
 Carol A. Littlehale
 Robert L. Loos
 Eric R. Magbiro
 John K. McElhone
 Andrew D. Melick
 William T. Miller II
 Phylliss Prokopich
 Gilbert Ross

John M. Schaber
 Robert V. Sheehan
 John W. Slaght
 Peter J. Smithson
 Jeffrey D. Speight
 Laurence E. Sprague
 Sean D. Stevens
 William F. Sullivan
 Michael E. Tareila
 Robert A. Todd
 Rene Vazquez
 Romuldas Videika
 Lee E. Vogel
 John D. Webster
 William H. Welch
 Yvar Yap

M.E.B.A. Union Halls & Offices – Office Hours & Job Call Times

All hours indicated are local time – Monday through Friday, not including holidays.

Some hall and office employees can still be reached before and after these times, especially by cell phone.

Baltimore

Union Hall

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Job Call: 12:30 p.m.

M.E.B.A. Plans Office

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

M.E.B.A. Diagnostic Center

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Boston

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Job Call: 12:00 p.m.

Charleston

Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Job Call: 12:30 p.m.

Cleveland

Hall visits by appointment only
 Job Call: 12:30 p.m.

Honolulu

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Job Call: 10:45 a.m.

Houston

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Job Call: 1 p.m.

Jacksonville

Office Hours: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Job Call: 12:30 p.m.

L.A./Wilmington

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Job Call: 12:30 p.m.

New Orleans

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Job Call: 1 p.m.

New York/New Jersey

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Job Call: 12:30 p.m.

Norfolk

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Job Call: 12:30 p.m.

Oakland/San Francisco

Union Hall

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Job Call: 12:15 p.m.

Diagnostic Center

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Seattle

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Job Call: 12:30 p.m.

Tampa

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Job Call: 1 p.m.

M.E.B.A. D.C. Headquarters

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School - Easton, MD

Office Hours:
 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



New Contract, New Members at Chevron Unit

Members sailing in the Chevron fleet recently ratified a three-year contract with the company that immediately provides wage increases retroactive to April 1, 2023. The agreement that runs until March 31, 2026, beefs up wages, broadens bonuses for extended assignments and makes improvements in other areas including reliefs, holidays and vacation.

The bargaining team for negotiations included Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini, Oakland Patrolman Max Alper and rank-and-file members Jerry Hiles, Steven Truelove, Jeff Jones and Chris Coombs.

Chevron is an “open shop” bargaining unit. Contract talks began last spring and negotiators engaged vessel crew - both M.E.B.A. and non-union – to gauge opinions and preferences for agreement terms. Those not already represented by the Union were informed about the benefits of membership. M.E.B.A. officials were pleased with the response, and the Union dramatically increased its rate of non-union Chevron mariners making application for membership. The new applicants came to understand that the strength of an effective and enforceable contract is wielded by the solidarity and commitment of a union.

In the U.S.-flag Chevron fleet, M.E.B.A. represents the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Engineers, Second and Third Mates as well as the Junior First Officers. Vessels represented include the TEXAS VOYAGER, CALIFORNIA VOYAGER, MISSISSIPPI VOYAGER and FLORIDA VOYAGER.

Executive V.P. Cimini & Oakland Patrolman Max Alper visited deck officers on the bridge of the MISSISSIPPI VOYAGER before contract talks with Chevron began. Left to right are Third Mate Chris Napolitano, Chief Mate Chris Keller and Second Mate Patrick Lyell.



M.E.B.A. negotiators informed non-union Chevron mariners in the fleet about the benefits of union membership as they secured a new contract for M.E.B.A. officers. Left to right onboard the MISSISSIPPI VOYAGER are Third Mate Chris Napolitano 1st A/E Phil Diamond, Third Mate Tahnee Curran, C/M Dan Reynolds, 3rd A/E Ian Ferrer, Engine Cadet Stephen Feeney, 3rd A/E Cole Deschamps, Second Mate Pat Lyell, JFO Chris Keller, and 2nd A/E Steven Truelove.

Political Action Fund Honor Roll

(For Calendar Year 2023)



In the corridors of power in Washington D.C., the M.E.B.A. has long reigned as a formidable force, owing to careful cultivation of political relationships over time. At the heart of our enduring efficacy is the Political Action Fund (PAF), a veritable linchpin empowering the M.E.B.A. to cement political alliances not only within the hallowed halls of Congress but also within State Capitols nationwide. The PAF stands as a sentinel, guarding against the encroachments of ill-informed legislators and vested interest groups, ensuring the preservation of maritime programs and policies vital to our industry's prosperity.

While contributions to the P.A.F. are voluntary, the collective strength it bestows upon our Union is indispensable. Yet, regrettably, not all members partake in this pivotal endeavor. It is imperative that every M.E.B.A. member grasps the integral role a robust PAF plays in safeguarding the livelihoods of all those associated with the American Merchant Marine.

Funds are used to enlighten Members of Congress across party lines about the indispensable role our industry plays in the nation's security and economic tapestry. Moreover, the PAF serves as a bridge, nurturing alliances with lawmakers sympathetic to our cause and ensuring the ascension of champions who recognize the strategic significance of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

To bolster the PAF, visit your local hall or access the M.E.B.A.'s online Member Payment and Update Portal (PUP) - via www.mebaunion.org.

Below is a list of active and retired members who understand the importance of the M.E.B.A.'s Political Action Fund and supported it during Calendar Year 2023. Those who contribute to the PAF this year (during Calendar Year 2024) will be listed in a *Marine Officer* next year. The list is broken down into four categories - and members, retirees and applicants are listed alphabetically within each grouping. 204 others (*not listed here*) contributed between \$5 and \$99 in calendar year 2023, contributions which are very much appreciated.



Order of Magellan (\$1,000 to \$5,000)

Maxim Alper	Luca DeFazio	Erik Gilbert	Benjamin Larrabee	Vincent Quinones	Craig Trautman
Duncan Ballenger	Samuel Dengel	Joseph Glywasky	John Long	Roland Rexha	Albert Truong
Thomas Bands	Thomas Dewhirst	Nicole Greenway	Colin Lucas	Adam Smith	Adam Vokac
Erik Barton	Mark Engberg	Jason Harrington	Serena Martin	Christopher Steele	Daniel Walsh
Hans Boughal	Stuart Fay	Lawrence Ho	Bradford McDermott	Phillip Strissel	William Warren
Jason Callahan	Michael Ferrino	Kyle Hudson	Donald Mullett	Robert Sundius	William Warren
Claudia Cimini	Joe Francis	Joseph Lamonica	Marc Poniatowski	Christopher Swift	Eric White

Realm of King Neptune (\$500-\$999)



Edward Albrecht	Dang Do	Benjamin Kane	Jack Menendez	Nicholas Sermoneta
Rene Asupan	Jeffrey Duncan	Christopher Kewley	Christopher Merola	Jack Shaffield
Alexander Baird	Richard Fahey	Craig LaChance	Hugh Myers	David Shaw
Ethan Barlow	Edward Figelski	James Lackey	Anthony Nappi	Daniel Sibbald
Benjamin Bassett	Graeme Fiser	Trevor Lapham	Christopher Nardone	Lyle Sloan
Todd Bilodeau	Brian Fritschi	Louis Lincoln	David Nashif	Brian Smith
Daniel Bलिएfnich	Mark Gallagher	Aaron Lord	Jacob Nickel	Willis Spear
Timothy Bowling	Patrick Garthwaite	Sonja Lund	Jose Orenge	Robert Stodola
Robert Bullard	Anthony Garza	Marc Lyons	David E. Owen	Steven Tebbe
Aaron Claveria	David Greenway	Andrew MacDougall	Ryan Patterson	Matthew Terkuile
John Collins	Sylvan Haas	Daniel MacLean	Michael Perry	Barton Troxell
Kevin Cross	Evan Hafford	Deshawn Maduro	Jeff Pillard	Emanuel Valentin
Marcus Crumpton	Paul Hayward	John Mahoney	Dilson Ramirez	Bill Van Loo
Daniel Davis	Gregory Herz	Andrew Martin	Joshua Reed	Ryan Vetting
William DeMilio	Lawrence Holbert	Michael Martykan	Nathan Robinson	Alexander Waterfield
Paul Deming	Randall Jaunzemis	Matthew Mataronas	Michael Rugarber	Timothy Weber
William Dickman	Benjamin Johannessen	William McCaney	Daniel Scrivanich	Nicholas Webster
Alex DiPietro	Christopher Jones	Robert McGuire	Daniel Seewald	Todd Williams
	Luke Kaili	Jonathan McPherson	Nicholas Sergio	Matthew Wilson
				Thomas Zysk

Shellback
(\$250-\$499)



Gregorio Abalos
Louai Abdou
Nathan Abel
Dominic Adase
Jordan Alfaro
Garrett Allen
Matthew Alonge
Nwachimereze Amankolor
Richard Anderson
Daniel Antonellis
Alex Antony
Lyle Armacost
Maria Asuncion
Thomas Aukstikalnis
Edwin Bagley
Roderic Baker
David Baker
Bozidar Balic
Emery Barg
Grant Begley
Trevor Belson
Adam Belson
Toni Birdsong
Jeffrey Boisvert
Michael Breton
Christopher Brownfield
Timothy Burchfield
Michael Burns
Thomas Burnside
Will Calhoun
Benjamin Cicale
Mitchell Cihomsky
Jacob Clapp
Kervin Claude
Dennis Cline
Jeremy Cobo
Rayomond Collector
Mark Collins
Julianne Cona
Arnulfo Concepcion
Brian Conroy
Michael Cooper
Tracy Covil
Frank Crifasi
Dallas Crow
John Cullan
Kent Cumings
Frederick Cuzner
Aaron Davis
Anthony Dellaquila
Lucas Demore
Richard Doherty
Bradley Ducharme
James Dulong Jr
Andrew Dunlop
Thomas Dunn
Nathaniel Durbin
Eldridge Edwards
Timothy Falconieri

John Fernandez
Mitchell Ferritto
Jason Fetter
David Fiala
Arni Foss
Lucas Frank
Daniel Fraser
Trevor Fuller
Clay Garcia
Michael Garcia
John Morgan Gaylan
Sean Grace
Patrick Graham
Keith Grandy
Eric Gusek
Derek Haars
Peter Haber
Mary Halloran
Stuart Hanna
Timothy Harley
John Harrison
Steven Harvey
Matthew Haskell
Martin Heidt
Jakob Hemmerlein
Jeffrey Hitzel
Jeffrey Houghton
Paul Hudson
Benjamin Hurley
Kenneth Jackson
Ted Jacobites
Joseph Jacovino
Sean Jamieson
Timothy Jany
Peter Jendrasko
Steven Johnson
Christos Kakalettris
Seth Kaye
Kerri Kelley
John Kelly
James King
Jeffery Klitzke
Joshua Knowles
Brian Koehchley
Jacob Kopras
Samuel Kraft
Adam Kroupa
Joseph Lacey
Paul Lemoine
Eric Linderholm
Jonathon Lipski
Adel Lotfy
Patrick Lowe
Daniel Luglio
Kelsey MacDonald
Mark MacDonald
Patrick Maher
Joseph Marino
Gordon Marsh
David May
Connor McDonnell

John McElhone
Leslie McGann
Patrick McGean
Paul McGrath
Reynaldo Medina
Peter Meglow
Charles Mitchell
Karly Moise-Duquella
James Moore
Scott Moore
Daniel Murphy
Luis Navarrete
George Negoescu
Craig Newton
Hieu Nguyen
Sean Nolan
Thomas Norton
Ryan Novak
Thomas Ofria
James O'Loughlin
Arthur Omdahl
Dylan O'Neil
Kwaku Oppong-Addae
Andrey Pakhomov
Nicholas Pappas
Kyle Parker
Julie Penny
Liam Perry
Steven Peters
Carlos Pineda
Christopher Poles
Christoph Ponce
Ira Pote
Thomas Povalec
Christopher Quijano
Stanley Quinn
Edward Radzik
Brian Redican
Russell Reed
Jordan Reidelbach
Robert Resino
Joseph Reynolds
Paul Riley
Alexander Robinson
Joseph Robson
Michael Romero
Richard Royston
John Ryder
Joseph Sandlin
Louis Santiago
Rober Sasso
Benjamin Sawyer
John Schaffer
Patrick Scott
Benjamin Seale
Michael Sharkey
Mark Shartel
Eoin Shea
Randall Skillern
Dzemaal Smirba
Austin Smith

Matthew Somogyi
Frank Sopko
Laurence Sprague
Alfred St. John
Philip Steinberg
Brandon Stewart
Nicholas Stockbridge
Zebadiah Strout
Nicholas Sullivan
Wayne Sumner
Steven Taber
Felix Tapales
Alexander Tapia
Nickolas Tapley
Edwin Taylor
Raymond Tesson
Daryl Thomas
Jon Tipton
Keith Turcotte
Jason Underhill
Bernard Underwood
Glenn Unflat
Barry Unnold
Paul Venuti
Lee Vogel
Sam Vos
David Wagner
Philip Walker
Peter Warner
Seth Warner
Michael Watkins
Anthony West
Clayton Whidden
Harold Williams
John Yang
Luke Zempel
Salvatore Zingales

Pollywog
(\$100-\$249)



James Abel
Reginald Abrams
Sonny Acosta
Kyle Acton
Michael Adams
Llorenc Aguiar
Peter Aguinaldo
James Aird
Kobi Albright
Joseph Allotey
Anthony Apodaca
Charles Apudo
Scott Armstrong
Michael Atwell
Nicholas Austell
Mikel Avery
David Ayou
Nicholas Balhorn
Lawrence Balsamo
Sean Barkowsky
David Barstow

James Bartlett
Winston Baxter-Harwell
John Beal
Kristina Belyea
Justin Benevides
Kevin Bennett
Thomas Benz
Nicholas Berner
Fernando Biwer Paz
Justin Blair
Douglas Blake
Joshua Blanchard
Jonathan Boisvert
Chris Bolinger
Cameron Bollin
Erik Boothe
Charles Boozer
John Bordeaux
Kyle Boucher
Mitchell Boyd
Zachary Bradley
Michael Brady
Brendan Brady
Sean Breheny
Rudolph Breton
Louis Brooks
Richard Brown
Jordan Brown
Adam Bubencik
Timothy Bunstine
Austin Burnham
Gregg Burr
Kevin Buselmeier
Jack Bushey
Nicholas Cabral
Carry Callender
Peter Caloger
Thomas Campbell
Aldrin Cariazo
Ryan Carpentier
Jake Catarius
Gregg Cavan
Drew Chapman
David Chapman
Kyle Chernoff
Christine Ching
William Choi
Derek Chorzepa
Vladimir Chpatchev
Michael Christensen
Michael Cicero
James Clarkeson
Tyler Coburn
Timothy Cogan
Henry Cole
Leonard Collevicchio
Christian Collins
Brian Colona
Eric Connor
Alex Contois
Christopher Coombs



Parker Courtney	Conor Golden	Brendan Linn	Nicholas Pellechia	Stefan Stein
Emma Crandall	Ellsworth Gordon	Jason Lisowski	Andrew Pellechia	Matthew Stempleski
Dylan Crook	Thomas Gorman	Gregory Logue	Jacob Philbrook	Peter Steverman
Elliott Currier	Kyle Grable	Patrick Long	Jay Phillips	Thomas Stillwachs
James D'Amico	Scott Grant	Louis Ludwig	Christopher Pilkington	Jonathan Storck
Joseph D'Amico	Jason Greene	Sean Lusignan	Kevin Pinegar	Jesse Strickland
Michael Daramy	John Guccione	Aidan Lyons	Thomas Pollock	James Sturgul
Benjamin Davoy	Patrick Gudmundson	Duncan MacLean	Aidan Pollock	Peter Sullivan
Gage Debonise	Greg Guldjord	Shane Mahaffey	John Powers	Timothy Sullivan
Christopher DeFonce	Robert Gurlitz	Giancarlo Mahalik	Kenneth Pressey	Kelsy Sullivan
Krista Deleva	Par Hagberg	Alexander Mahimer	Patrick Preston	Marc Supersano
Ruth Denton	Stephen Haines	Kenneth Marcinak	Michael Proia	Kurt Sutter
Paul Derrane	Daniel Halata	William Marino	Phyllis Prokopich	Alton Swinney
Christopher Devens	Timothy Hallett	Keith Martin	Alex Puglio	Alexander Sydow
Brian DiGregorio	Foster Hardt	Eric Martineau	Michael Purcell	Luca Tallarini
Jonathan Dinisio	Westin Harrison	Bruno Martinelli	Timothy Quigg	Ryan Tarabochia
Neil DiPaola	James Hauth	Ryan Mathis	Sol Quint	Jeremy Taylor
Will Donnell	Garrett Hernandez	Ryan Mavity	Jason Randall	Carli Thomas
Susan Dorman	Keith Hickerson	Wesley Mazyck	Joshua Reed	Ansel Thompson
Elijah Dove	Bryan Higgins	Joseph McCollem	Lionel Rivera	Nicholas Tinkham
Eric Downer	Todd Hileman	Harry McKeever	David Rivera	Edgardo Tirado
Stephen Downs	William Hill	John McLane	Ryan Roberts	George Torrey
Timothy Drews	Ross Himebauch	Shawn McLaughlin	John Robertson	Demian Trask-Annies
Neil Driscoll	Jonathan Hines	Joseph McMahan	Christopher Robinson	Jeremy Travers
Kevin Drumm	Stanley Hjort	Liam McMahan	Travis Rose	Malcolm Trott
Brendan Duerr	Jeffrey Hostutler	Robert McMurray	Devon Rossi	Michael Trujillo
Kieran Duggan	Richard Howerton	Devin McNeil	Joseph Rowley	Michael Unger
Tyler Dullnig	Bryan Humphrey	Denise Mendoza	Paul Roy	Thomas Urbik
Teresa Dunlop	Brian Hunt	Terrance Merrill	John Ruggiero	Alex Vannier
James Dyer	Bradley Hursh	Matthew Miller	Nicholas Rullo	Kristina Vey
James Earley	David Iacobucci	Nathan Miller	Liam Ryan	Clarence Vick
Charles Eaton	Kegan Irvine	Jacob Millette	Elias Saba	Dante Villa
William Eident	Thomas Jackson	Daniel Mincieli	Mikael Safarian	Andrew Vincioni
James Eldridge	Charles Jackson	Thomas Molnar	Alexander Glenn Salao	Arvie Viray
Robert Elliott	Elliott James	Rollin Moore	Tyler Sarter	Brian Vroome
Jonathan Emmerton	Tyler James	Craig Moran	Devin Savoie	Christopher Wagner
Kyle Fallon	John Janowicz	Timothy Morton	Andrew Scherrer	Steven Walker
Gregory Feeney	Leonardo Jefferson	Timothy Morton	Christopher Schlegel	Andrew Walton
Howard Feldan	Leonardo Jefferson	Daniel Mosa	Harold Schreier	Brian Watson
Adam Fenton	Vincent Jenkins	Robert Moulton	Kevin Schultz	Courtland Watters
Liam Ferretti	Elizabeth Jenkins	Daniel Moylan	Stefan Sebach	Tara Lehua Weber
Michael Figueroa	Sebastian Jodar	Leo Muldowney	Matthew Seel	Mark Weismann
Jason Flesner	David Johnson	Mark Mullaney	Scott Seifart	Nicholas Weitkamp
Brian Flynn	James Johnson	John Murphy	Stephen Shea	Carl Welborn
Justin Forrest	Matthew Jones	Kesava Murthy	Stephen Shea	Ryan Welsh
John Fountas	Keenan Joyce	Thomas Myatt	Samuel Shrake	Brad West
John Frangineas	Christopher Kahl	Thomas Myatt	Zachary Silva	Patrick Whalen
John Frangineas	Thidiane Kanoute	Christopher Myers	David Silva	Richard Whitney
Paige Frankel	Justin Kiste	Maxwell Nelson	Aaron Simard	Justin Whitton
Dylan Franz	Jeanne Klaine	Kevin Nelson	Matthew Simms	Nathan Williams
Rory Fraser	Joshua Koellmer	Jake Nelson	Gregory Sipper	Craig Woodward
James Frazier	Dominic Kolenda	David Newell	Edgar Sison	Andrew Wormwood
Alec Frizzell	Gregory Kuijper	John Nichols	John Slaght	Alex York
Kyle Furgerson	William Kytte	Angela Nikitik	Darnell Slayton	Christian Yuhas
Carl Gabrielsson	Dylan Labun	John Noble	Tristan Small	Dakota Yuknavich
Douglas Gallagher	Coleman Lambert	Charles Norval	Terry Smith	Thant Yung
Ryan Garcia	Daniel Lancaster	Kari Nusbaum	Trevor Smith	Matthew Zalewski
Keith Garland	Jonathan Land	Joseph O'Connell	Cameron Smith	Lauren Zander
Anthony Garofalo	Jonathan Land	Patrick O'Connor	Max Smith	Christopher Zaucha
Eric Geake	Kurt Landwehr	Robert Olson	David Smith	
Chad Geary	Robert Laws	Erin Oradesky	Paul Smith	
Brian Gerrish	Ethan Lawson	William O'Rourke	Kenneth Smith	
William Gerry	Matthew Lazarski	Matthew Osborne	Melvin Smithson	
Mark Gianferante	Garret Lear	Christos Pantelis	Alexander Snyder	
Rory Gibbons	Jacob LeBeouf	Christopher Parent	Joseph Sondreal	
Mark Gilmour	Q Lee	Kevin Parsons	Michael Sopko	
Mark Gimle	Brandy Lee	Christopher Paul	Jacob Sparks	
Timothy Glynn	Paul Legge	Jonathan Payne	Andrew Stamm	
	Isaac Levine	Albert Pedriali		



Record Enrollment at the Calhoun School

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School enjoyed its highest regular course student enrollment numbers in 2023 since the Cadet Program ended in the late 1980s. The 2016-2017 years reached the enrollment heights of 2023, but those numbers were skewed because of the brief regulatory timeline foisted on mariners to complete STCW gap-closing certifications necessary to continue sailing.

Since the early 1990s, the CMES has evolved into the foremost continuing education facility for licensed officers allowing the M.E.B.A. to be the finest source of seagoing labor today. But 2023 was a banner year with a series of new courses and improved amenities that has the School running like a well-oiled machine.

School Director Bryan Jennings, who took over CMES leadership in 2022, pointed to the success of recently installed courses such as Electrical Troubleshooting, LNG as a Fuel and the innovative MSC CONMAR course comprising of seven individual classes required by deck and engine officers. In addition, he cited the popular High Voltage Safety course, the consistent excellence of the staff and instructors, as well as the establishment of the fire training rig on campus allowing another layer of convenience for students getting their necessary certifications.

The CMES expects another successful year in 2024 and will continue to offer a diverse array of intensive courses and training that keeps our mariners on the cutting edge of ship systems and allows our membership to provide outsized value to our contracted companies.



At the conclusion of the three-week 2023 Cadet Internship program at the CMES this last summer, MarAd officials including Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips stopped by the School for a visit. She was given a tour by CMES Director Bryan Jennings, M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac, Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha, Norfolk Branch Agent Jack Menendez and others. Cadets enthusiastically informed Adm. Phillips about the excellent training and instruction they received at the School during the program and how it has helped prepare them to apply their skills in a real-world shipping environment.



Cadets received Diesel Engineering instruction at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School during the summer internship program. Standing at the Sulzer Flywheel (l-r) are David Rivera (USMMA), Joseph Largo (USMMA), William Neth (Mass Maritime), Ryan Masters (Mass), Kaemon Park (Mass), Peyton McGaffigan (Mass) and Levi Seals (USMMA).



The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School recently hosted a Winter installment of its popular Licensed Cadet Internship program for maritime academy cadets who were unable to attend the summer program. During the visit, talented future mariners learned more about the excellent career opportunities that the M.E.B.A. presents. Some of the cadets that took advantage of the Winter Internship were (l-r) Ryan Kircher (SUNY), Cole Johnson (USMMA), Carianne Sconzo (SUNY), Edward Brehm (SUNY) and Thomas Rohmann (SUNY).

Setting Sail for Success: M.E.B.A. Highlights Impactful Congressional Candidates

As members and retirees of the M.E.B.A. know, federal elections are critically important in determining the long-term success and vitality of the U.S. Merchant Marine. Specifically, the M.E.B.A. leadership and legislative department work tirelessly to educate and remind key decision-makers on Capitol Hill about the critical programs and investments affecting your job and retirement.

Our industry's strength relies not only on the Union's efforts in Washington but also on supporting the federal lawmakers who work behind the scenes to shape key aspects of the maritime industry, such as the Jones Act, Cargo Preference, the Maritime Security Program (MSP), the Tanker Security Program (TSP), substantial investments in passenger ferry systems, as well as initiatives affecting the offshore wind industry. With the upcoming 2024 elections just around the corner, decisions that affect your future are not exactly determined by which political party is in charge but rather the individuals who have championed the policies and regulations impacting M.E.B.A. active and retired members. To that end, M.E.B.A. has released a list of union-endorsed congressional candidates for the upcoming 2024 elections.

The M.E.B.A. leadership and legislative staff recognize that transparency is integral to ensuring that the Union's political endorsements and membership contributions to the Political Action Fund (M.E.B.A. PAF) are made wisely.

If you have questions about how the PAF works, how money is spent, or how various candidates are chosen, please do not hesitate to reach out to Director of Government Affairs Erick Siahaan at esiahaan@mebaunion.org or call M.E.B.A. HQ.



M.E.B.A. Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini and Oakland-area member Chris Coombs (left) recently met with Representative Mark DeSaulnier at the historic Shadelands Ranch in Walnut Creek, CA. Rep. DeSaulnier is part of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure and represents California's 10th Congressional District.

Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)
 Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)
 Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
 Rep. Nanette Barragán (D-CA)
 Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL)
 Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY)
 Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
 Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA)
 Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)
 Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
 Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA)
 Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)
 Rep. Troy Carter (D-LA)
 Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA)
 Rep. Greg Casar (D-TX)
 Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)
 Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC)
 Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
 Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA)
 Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT)
 Rep. Daniel Crenshaw (R-TX)
 Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
 Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)
 Rep. Anthony D'Esposito (R-NY)
 Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
 Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)
 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX)
 Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL)
 Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)
 [Running for U.S. Senate]
 Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)
 Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY)
 Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA)
 Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-TX)
 Rep. Carlos Gimenez (R-FL)
 Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA)
 Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME)
 Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX)
 Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)
 Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)
 Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)
 Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
 Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
 Rep. Val Hoyle (D-OR)
 Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)
 Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)
 Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
 Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA)
 Rep. David Joyce (R-OH)
 Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
 Rep. Tom Kean Jr. (R-NJ)
 Sen. Angus King (I-ME)
 Rep. Nick LaLota (R-NY)

Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)
 Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY)
 Rep. Bob Menendez Jr. (D-NJ)
 Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-MD)
 Rep. Marcus Molinaro (R-NY)
 Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)
 Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)
 Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ)
 Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
 Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
 Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH)
 Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)
 Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ)
 Rep. Mary Peltola (D-AK)
 Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)
 Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)
 Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL)
 Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)
 Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)
 Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC)
 Rep. Davis Rouzer (R-NC)
 Rep. John Rutherford (R-TX)
 Rep. Pat Ryan (D-NY)
 Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-CA)
 Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA)
 Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA)
 Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA)

Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)
 Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
 Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ)
 Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)
 [Running for U.S. Senate]
 Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)
 Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)
 Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)
 Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN)
 Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI)
 Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-WA)
 Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY)
 Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA)
 Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT)
 Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
 Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-HI)
 Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)
 Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA)
 Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ)
 Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI)
 Rep. Gabriel Vasquez (D-NM)
 Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX)
 Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL)
 Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
 Rep. Brandon Williams (D-NY)
 Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)

Shipping Shorts

More New Work! MOU for Coastwise Riding Officers

The Union secured an MOU with Marine Personnel & Provisioning that puts an additional M.E.B.A. engineer onboard each of the Hapag/Crowley “Express Class” vessels to serve as a coastwise riding officer. Brokered by Gulf Coast Vice President Adam Smith, the MOU requires the company to call an additional third assistant engineer to join each vessel during a U.S. coastwise trip following a foreign voyage to assist in maintaining STCW work-rest requirements.

The agreement covers the five A7 6,900 TEU Flex engine Express-class ships, including the DELAWARE EXPRESS, COLORADO EXPRESS, HUDSON EXPRESS, MISSOURI EXPRESS, and POTOMAC EXPRESS, as well as any replacement vessels.

V.P. Smith credited fleet Chief Engineers who have pushed for this additional position to benefit the company and provide additional work to the Union. The company began calling the jobs in Charleston and is opening up to Jacksonville and Norfolk. Additionally, Maintenance Engineers will be called in Charleston and Norfolk.

COVID Vaccination Requirements Dropped

Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini announced that M.E.B.A.-contracted company Matson Navigation will no longer require COVID-19 vaccinations for crewmembers aboard their domestic Hawaii or Alaska service vessels. In the latest update to the company’s vessel protocols, Matson encourages the booster for ship crew but no longer requires it as part of a member’s fitness-

for-duty assessment. The requirement had been in effect since October 2021, though the Union successfully negotiated generous incentives for vaccinated M.E.B.A. mariners serving in the fleet. The Matson announcement followed similar recent policy changes in other deep-sea fleets including APL and MLL. As always, the M.E.B.A. will continue fighting on behalf of our membership to better their working conditions at sea and ashore.

ATC Fleet to Undergo Engine Repairs

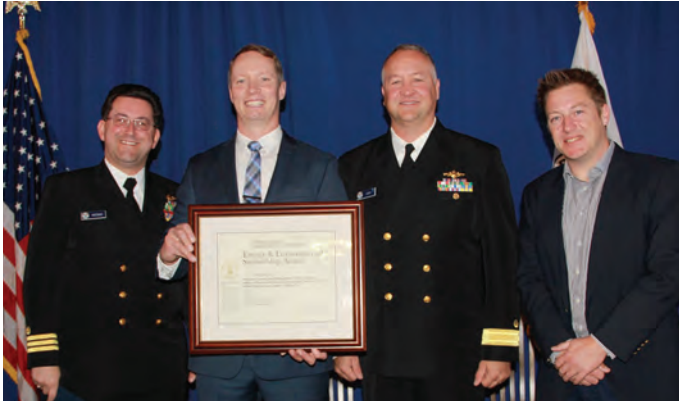
M.E.B.A.-contracted Overseas Shipholding Group announced it has scheduled comprehensive lifecycle engine upgrades for the four Alaskan Tanker Company vessels. ATC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of OSG. MAN Energy Solutions SE will perform the engine and operational improvements on the ALASKAN EXPLORER, ALASKAN FRONTIER, ALASKAN LEGEND and ALASKAN NAVIGATOR that will make them more environmentally friendly while extending their serviceable lives.

The upgrades begin this year in conjunction with plans to reactivate the recently acquired ALASKAN FRONTIER, a tanker that had previously been slumbering in deep lay-up. The remaining three vessel engine upgrades will be conducted concurrently with scheduled vessel drydocking periods through 2026, which will mark the completion of the project.



On the eve of Veterans Day, M.E.B.A. met with four World War II merchant mariners who were taking part in the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, VA. In back are M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha and M.E.B.A. Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher with (l-r) Dave Yoho, Howard Pfeifer, Pete Kurkimilis and Charles Mills. This was the first time that the U.S. Merchant Marine was honored on Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery at the official ceremony.





M.E.B.A. Chief Marine Engineer Colin Davis recently received an Environmental Stewardship award from the Commerce Department for advancing energy efficiency aboard the NOAA fisheries survey vessel REUBEN LASKER. His work has reduced greenhouse gas emissions on the vessel “through comprehensive and collaborative energy management - such as using efficient onboard ship generators, reducing ship speeds when possible, changing onboard lighting systems to more efficient options, regulating power consumption through automation, repairing refrigeration and energy leaks, and better maintaining scientific freezers...” Left to right are LASKER Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jonathan Heesch,

Chief Davis, Rear Admiral Chad Cary (Deputy Director for NOAA’s Office of Marine and Aviation Operations) and M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac who is delighted when a fellow Chief Engineer gets credit for doing a helluva job.

More New Work! M.E.B.A. Signs Up Impulse Consulting

M.E.B.A. signed up yet another shoreside company with up-and-coming ship services employer Impulse Consulting, LLC. The company focuses on maritime inventory management consulting including cycle counts, inventory audits, and database clean-up. M.E.B.A.’s Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini brokered the contract with Impulse with full M.E.B.A. Pension, Medical and Training benefits, as well as MPB & 401k. The Memorandum of Understanding runs through August 31, 2027. The Union is providing senior level licensed marine engineers for service with Impulse-directed projects on an as-needed basis.

Chief Engineer James Dyer, a 31-year member whose wife also sails with the Union, owns the Oregon-based company and is well aware of the value that our engineers bring to the table. Those interested in future positions should contact EVP Cimini

at M.E.B.A.’s Union hall in Oakland and forward their résumé to ccimini@mebaunion.org. This new work is part of continuing efforts to secure a diverse array of job opportunities both at sea and ashore for our highly-skilled membership.

Yet Another Shoreside Employer

The M.E.B.A. reached an agreement with a new employer that secures additional shoreside job opportunities for our membership. Charleston Industrial and Marine Repair LLC based in North Charleston, South Carolina performs repair work (including Government-contracted jobs) on vessels around the country. Our MOU with them began on January 1, 2024 and is similar in nature to the contracts and rates we have with current M.E.B.A. shoreside employers ACME and Blue Point Engineering. The company is owned by M.E.B.A. Chief Engineer David Willison who serves as its President.

M.E.B.A. is supplying Port Engineers as well as licensed officers and unlicensed personnel performing labor for the company on an “as-needed” basis. This new agreement is a continuation of the M.E.B.A. Administration’s efforts to further diversify work opportunities for our membership with full benefits.

Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan brought in this new work for the Union.

M.E.B.A.-Crewed Vessel Part of Antarctic Resupply Mission

The M.E.B.A.-crewed OCEAN GLADIATOR, a Seacor/Waterman heavylift vessel, participated in Operation Deep Freeze 2024, the annual mission to resupply scientists’ year-round operations at the South Pole’s McMurdo Station. The Military Sealift Command has supported the operation since 1955, the year the station was established.

The MSC-chartered vessel sailed out of Port Hueneme, California in

A shot from early summer of the first crew onboard the APL EAGLE (former CNC MERCURY). The ship reflagged to the Stars & Stripes, replaced the aging M/V GULF EXPRESS and took over its MSP chit. The crew is represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFOU. Participation in the reflag of the vessel for the Union included C/E Kevin Parsons, 1st A/E Justin Whitton, 2nd A/E John Powers and 3rd A/E Alexander Tapia.





Patriot Contract Services recently took over the operation and maintenance of two Military Sealift Command surge vessels that will support strategic sealift needs around the world. M.E.B.A. members crewed up the USNS PILILAAU and the USNS SEAY. This is a shot of the PILILAAU crew which included M.E.B.A. members Chief Engineer Jed Revels, 1st A/E Marc Hoffman, 2nd A/E Darnell Slayton, 3rd A/E Thomas Green and 3rd A/E Leonardo Jefferson.

late December bringing containers filled with mechanical parts, vehicles, construction materials, office supplies and electronics equipment, and mobile office units; and other supplies needed for the year's survival at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. The M.E.B.A. vessel crew consisted of C/E Trent Enoch, 1st A/E Peter Warner, 2nd A/E Jack Shaffield, 3rd A/E Mitchel Jacobsen, 3rd A/E Luca Tallarini as well as Crane Technician Brandon Perdue.

New U.S.-Flag Ship Brings M.E.B.A. Jobs

M.E.B.A. engine officers crewed up a new entry into the U.S.-flag fleet after one of our contracted companies was chosen as the ship manager following a Military Sealift Command bid award. Boca Raton, Florida-based Federated Maritime LLC won a bid to provide ongoing fuel transportation services to MSC. The company sub-contracted with Patriot Contract Services to manage the ALLIED PACIFIC, the Chemical/Oil tanker that is

performing the work. The vessel was formerly known as the CELSIUS RIGA (ex-ALPINE LOYALTY), built in South Korea in 2010. It had previously been sailing under the flag of the Marshall Islands. The contract includes a 12-month base period with three one-year option periods, and one 11-month option period. The work is being performed in Hawaii with the expectation of additional worldwide possibilities stretching into 2028 if all options are exercised.

M.E.B.A. on Two MSC Surge Vessels After Patriot Bid Award

M.E.B.A. engineers crewed up two Military Sealift Command Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-On/Roll-Off vessels after Patriot Contract Services (PCS) prevailed in a competitively bid solicitation. Patriot won the small business set-aside award for operation and maintenance of the USNS SEAY and USNS PILILAAU, two of the MSC-owned surge ships that support strategic sealift needs around the world.



New Orleans Union Representative/Dispatcher Dan Gifford retired in February. He has been part of the M.E.B.A. for 35 years sailing as a Chief Engineer for Keystone and various shipping companies then six more years at the hall. In addition, New Orleans Plans Representative Mary Starita, who has been part of the M.E.B.A. for over 40 years, felt the time was right to join Dan in retirement. Their collective contributions to the M.E.B.A. are greatly appreciated and we extend our thanks to two M.E.B.A. stalwarts!

The contract includes a 12-month base period with four 12-month option periods and one 6-month option period, that would stretch out to Aug. 21, 2028 if all options are exercised. Mariners aboard the two vessels are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP, MFOW and ARA. Patriot formerly operated the two Bob Hope class vessels in the early 2000s when they were fresh out of Avondale Shipyard. They proved to be workhorse vessels during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

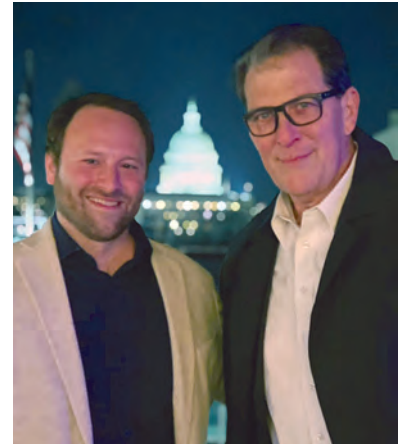


The Union recently hosted a meeting for maritime labor with two FMC Commissioners. The Federal Maritime Commission regulates the U.S. international ocean transportation system. Left to right are Commissioner Carl Bentzel, M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac and Commissioner Max Vekich at M.E.B.A. Headquarters.



M.E.B.A. recently helped welcome SUNY Maritime's beautiful new training ship, the first of five National Security Multi-Mission Vessels (NSMV) destined for state maritime academies. The EMPIRE STATE VII replaces SUNY's 62-year-old training vessel. At the ceremony are (l-r) M.E.B.A. Patrolman Nico Sermoneta, M.E.B.A. Chief Engineer Mark Collins and Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan.

Over the past three years, the M.E.B.A. and ILA have forged a stronger partnership through collaborative initiatives and increased communication. With mutual support and solidarity, both unions have elevated their collective bargaining power. Seen on the rooftop of M.E.B.A. Headquarters late last year are M.E.B.A.'s Gulf Coast V.P. Adam Smith with ILA's Alan Robb who heads up his union's South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District.



PCS Wins Bid for HAINA PATRIOT Fuel Transport

Patriot Contract Services won a Military Sealift Command bid to provide ongoing fuel transportation services to MSC until early 2028, if all options are exercised.

MSC time chartered the Patriot-managed M/T HAINA PATRIOT, a shallow-draft chemical/oil products tanker that the M.E.B.A. has crewed since the company flagged it into the U.S. fleet in late 2021. Other crewmembers aboard the ship are represented by MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFO. The firm-fixed-price contract includes a 12-month base period with three 12-month option periods and

one 11-month option. Work is being performed in Hawaii and worldwide and is expected to be completed (if all options are exercised) by March 2028.

Keystone Wins Bid to Supplement NOAA Engineers

Keystone Ocean Services, Inc. won a bid for a contract providing augmenting marine engineers for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) fleet of 15 research vessels. M.E.B.A. engineers will be dispatched to backfill for NOAA employees absent from the ships, to assist in port for routine maintenance and repairs, and to fulfill staffing requirements. The vessels perform

fisheries research, nautical chartering and ocean and climate studies worldwide. This is a five-year contract if all options are exercised.

M.E.B.A. is pleased that NOAA placed its trust in M.E.B.A.-represented Keystone Ocean Services, Inc. to provide our highly trained, dedicated, and technically competent marine engineers to ensure that NOAA will continue to fulfill their critical mission requirements.

Reminder! Online Member Payment & Update Portal

M.E.B.A.'s online Member Payment and Update Portal (PUP) allows the membership the ease of making online



M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha (4th from left in the group shot) led a delegation of U.S. maritime unions (as part of the ITF) to Denmark in efforts to secure well-paying jobs for American workers in the clean energy sector. The delegation also included M.E.B.A. Gulf Coast V.P. Adam Smith (9th from left in back) and Government Affairs Director Erick Siahhaan (2nd from right in front), as well as representatives from AMO, MM&P and SIU.



M.E.B.A. had a strong presence at the Women's International Shipping & Trade Association (WISTA) USA meetings in Washington DC. Left to right are M.E.B.A. Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway, M.E.B.A. Executive VP Claudia Cimini and member Brannon Massey who is a Port Engineer with Pasha. During the conference, Claudia addressed attendees as part of a panel on "Keeping Women at the Helm - Moving Beyond Firsts."

monetary transactions and gives them the opportunity to verify their credentials and contact information on file, as well as submitted sea time.

Members and applicants can use the Member PUP to pay their dues or service charges by credit card, debit card or through their checking account. They can also set up a recurring payment schedule to automatically keep them current. The site also allows users to view their transaction history online in a secure manner.

Visit www.mebaunion.org where you can click on the Member PUP banner to get started. In addition, the PUP allows members, applicants and retirees to make contributions to the M.E.B.A.'s Good & Welfare and Political Action Funds that support so many members. Contributions to the Good & Welfare Fund are tax deductible. This fund has provided essential assistance to members and retirees in their time of need. The PAF keeps M.E.B.A. jobs afloat by affording us a crucial lifeline to

policymakers who help determine the fate of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

You'll find the online Portal to be the most efficient and advantageous manner to remain in good standing and extend a needed monetary infusion to vital Union programs.

Reopener With OSG

M.E.B.A. negotiators, including rank and file, successfully concluded reopener talks with Overseas Ship Management (OSG) for new economic terms. The overall contract covers 13 vessels in the OSG U.S.-flag fleet. Our agreement with the company runs until June 15, 2026.

Reopener talks were led by Gulf Coast V.P. Adam Smith and included Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway. Headquarters Contracts Rep. Mark S. Gallagher also contributed to the process as did rank-and-file members Vinny Quinones (OVERSEAS SANTORINI), Pat Ryan (OVERSEAS MARTINEZ) and Greg Feeny (OVERSEAS CASCADE).



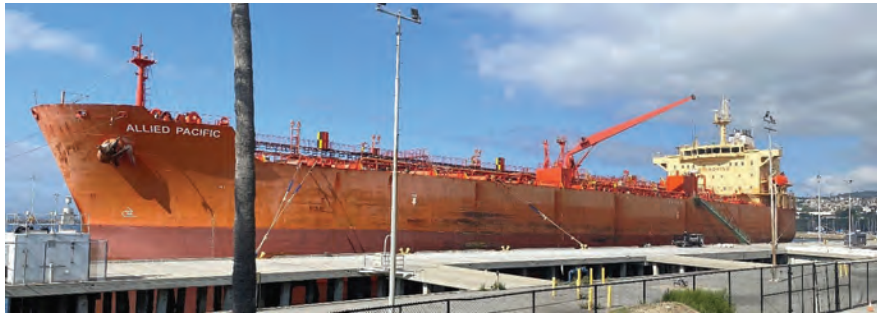
M.E.B.A. in Kings Point, NY at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy congratulating the Class of 2023. M.E.B.A. Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini and Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan (both USMMA alumni) are seen here presenting an M.E.B.A. boiler suit to graduate (and new M.E.B.A. applicant) Ryan Almara. Best of luck in your seafaring career Ryan!

APL Announced Rejuvenation of its U.S.-Flag Fleet

American President Lines announced that it is continuing to bring in younger vessels to replace ships in its fleet that will also meet new requirements for CO2 emissions.



M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac and Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha visited the Washington State Ferry M/V TOKITAE recently while they were in Seattle for the membership meeting and other business. Seen here with the TOKITAE "A" watch crew are (l-r) Rex, Steven Clapp (Oiler w/License), Scott Campbell (Oiler w/License), Doug Granstrom (Assistant Engineer), Adam V. and Brady Ferguson (Staff Chief Engineer).



M.E.B.A. crewed up a new entry into the U.S.-flag fleet after Patriot Contract Services took over the ship management of the chemical/oil tanker ALLIED PACIFIC. PCS was subcontracted to do the work after Florida-based Federated Maritime LLC won a bid to provide ongoing fuel transportation services to the Military Sealift Command.

APL has nine vessels in its fleet that are enrolled in the Maritime Security Program (MSP). MSP age limits require that older vessels be replaced in the current program before reaching 25 years of age.

Last year, the company replaced the APL GULF EXPRESS with the 14-years younger APL EAGLE that was plucked from the CMA CGM international fleet. The year before, the CMA-CGM DAKAR took the place of the aging APL SAIPAN. In 2021, the CMA CGM HERODOTE (since renamed APL ISLANDER) took over for the old APL GUAM.

Now, the company has a tentative schedule to freshen up the rest of

the fleet which may include newly constructed vessels. In the first part of the year, they plan to bring in the PRESIDENT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS and the PRESIDENT GRANT to replace the PRESIDENT TRUMAN and PRESIDENT WILSON. Next, the company will welcome the PRESIDENT REAGAN and send the PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT into the CMA CGM international fleet sometime in summer.

Under the tentative schedule, the PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH will be welcomed into the U.S. fleet in late summer and the PRESIDENT EISENHOWER will be ushered

out. Toward the end of the year, the PRESIDENT MONROE would flag-in to the Stars and Stripes and the PRESIDENT KENNEDY would be removed from the fleet. Finally, the tentative schedule targets the arrival of the PRESIDENT JOHNSON before the end of the year with a presumed replacement for the PRESIDENT CLEVELAND to finalize the ship swaps.

In all cases, the new ships are expected to assume the Maritime Security Program chits from the outgoing vessels. M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFOW mariners will continue to crew the replacement ships under the existing agreement with APL.



SIU President Emeritus Mike Sacco crossed the bar in St. Louis on December 28 at the age of 86, ten months after his retirement from the union. Sacco had served as SIU's President for nearly 35 years and had been a tireless and vocal advocate for the US maritime industry. Extending the M.E.B.A.'s condolences to the SIU, M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac noted, "Mike was a towering figure who had a profound impact on an industry that relies on the resilience

and strength of its workforce. Beyond the boardrooms and negotiating tables, he recognized the interconnectedness of the maritime community and always guided his union steadily through turbulent seas and calm waters alike."

M.E.B.A. members in our City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) bargaining unit include airport workers, firefighters and public work employees, among others. Here, members take a break from keeping the Juneau airport runway clear for aircraft this winter.

Some of the record-breaking snow they cleared in January can be seen through the window. In back are (L-R) Brennon Thomas and Steward Aaron Dean. In front are Carter Walker and apprentice pup Brandy.



Member Trevor Fuller sent this one in of the APL Officers' Conference in the Washington DC area last year where they had a round table with M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac and Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha. M.E.B.A. engineers working for APL are seen here, including technical superintendents.



Finished with Engines

“They no longer hear the calling of the watches, or the falling of the storm rain in the night. Seas shall weary them no more, for they have reached their final haven—their further shore.”

JESSE OTTO ALDRICH



Jesse Aldrich berthed at his final destination on March 18, 2022 at the age of 100. In 11th grade, he quit school to help his father run the family’s portable sawmill business. He later completed High School and received his GED. Jess started his sailing career in July 1940 on the ship W.E. FITZGERALD as a porter. He later continued his education at Fort Trumble, New London, Connecticut in 1943 where he earned his 3rd Assistant Engineer’s license. During World War II, Jess served on cargo ships in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. He saw combat in May 1945 during the invasion of Okinawa. He was also a veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam. Seven years after retirement at the age of 69, the government requested that he re-up for Desert Storm, which he declined. In 1942 Jess married Viola Skjefte; they were divorced about 1946. On September 24, 1954, he married Marie (Porter-Davis) in Duluth, Minnesota. They, with a portion of their family, moved to Texas in 1959 so Jesse could continue his merchant seaman career. He then retired and together they bought a ranch and moved to Rocksprings, Texas in 1977. Later they moved to town and Marie passed

away on February 9, 1997. On May 25, 2002 Jess married Jewell Merritt who passed away a few months later. For 9 years, he found true joy as a part of the music ministry at First Baptist Church of Rocksprings, accompanying the congregational singing by playing his various guitars. His eyesight diminished in later years, so he played less but began writing lyrics and music to Christian songs and hymns. Each of the 10 songs and poetry he wrote, he also performed at his church. On May 29, 2004, Jess married his wife Dell (McDonald) Smith. As a couple they liked singing and entertaining folks – Dell on her autoharp and Jesse on his guitar. They traveled to several different states, liked flower gardening and birds, enjoyed their home and loved each other. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Dell Smith; his children/step-children: Duane Davis, Fred Davis, Sharon Stephens, Cheryl Skordahl, Carol Gurnea, Kimberly Knight, Barbara Holcutt, Carroll Smith; 21 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren.

OLMEDO ALVAREZ

Eight bells rang for Olmedo Alvarez on November 30, 2022 at the age of 92. Itching to join the war effort as a teenager, he suited up with the Merchant Marine and traveled the

world supporting the nation’s economy and national security. He carved out a good life and grew up on the world’s sea lanes, proving his expertise in ship engine rooms on a variety of vessels. He was a good shipmate and leaves behind many family and friends.

RICHARD BAILEY

Richard Bailey set sail for uncharted waters on October 12, 2022 at the age of 71. Rich sailed all over the world and was a respected mariner who entertained his family and friends back home with his crazy stories. He put away his calipers and hung up his boiler suit in 2016 and settled down. He is missed.

PETER PAUL BARTOLO



Peter Bartolo awoke to life immortal on November 7, 2022 at the age of 89. Born in Malta, Peter grew up in London, England and eventually settled in Occidental California after working and traveling throughout the world. It was a gift to hear him share his stories - especially of sailing around the world and passing through all of the locks of Europe with Kahlua the cat as his first mate. He received a Membership Service award from the United States

continued



Coast Guard Auxiliary for 25 years of dedicated service in Sonoma County. His plaque notes: "Saved 15 Lives. Assisted 114 people in distress. Protected \$4.9 million in property. Conducted 82 search and rescue cases. Seized \$2.4 million worth of illegal drugs. Interdicted and rescued 17 illegal migrants at sea. Responded to 11 oil and hazardous chemical spills. Boarded and inspected 202 vessels of law enforcement interest." Peter was a dedicated parishioner of Saint Philip the Apostle Church in Occidental, California. He is entombed at the Cavalry Catholic Cemetery in Santa Rosa. Peter is missed by humans and animals alike. The dogs all along his country road would head to the door whenever they heard his name, hoping to find him passing out treats that he always had in his car for them.

ALAN THOMAS BAXTER

Alan Baxter shoved off toward his eternal reward on May 31, 2022 at the age of 76. He was a consummate engineer who sailed the world's sea lanes and racked up more than 20 years of pension credit while serving his country in peace and war. He hung up his boiler suit in 2006 and enjoyed retirement in Tigard, Oregon. He is missed by many family and friends.

KENNETH EDWARD BESELIN

Kenneth Beselin made sail for the Undiscovered Country on October 22, 2022 at the age of 93. As hostilities heated up on the global stage, Ken joined the cause and served his country proudly during World War II. As a mariner, he delivered the goods both in peace and war. He was a great friend and family man who is missed.

FRANK BEVACQUA

Frank Bevacqua shipped off toward the final frontier on June 2, 2023 at the age of 96. Frank turned wrenches for the Union on a variety of vessels for various shipping companies. He retired from the sea in 1987 and is missed by many family and friends.

DAVIS BOYD

Davis Boyd steamed into the sunset on July 17, 2023 at the age of 85. Davis had a lot of good years at sea working hard and earning a good living that served him well in his retirement. He is survived by many family and friends.

KEVIN THOMAS BRANDT



Kevin Brandt sailed into the afterlife on August 26, 2023 at the age of 79. He grew up in Flushing, NY and received a Golf Caddy Scholarship.

He was a SUNY Maritime College graduate and went to sea for over 25 years sailing out of the New York hall. He later got his Masters in teaching and returned to SUNY as an instructor while coaching their baseball team. He is survived by sisters Geraldine Brandt and JoAnne Coyne as well as longtime companion Mary Ellen Sherchuk.

JOHN JEFFREY BRASH



Jeff Brash sailed into the wild blue yonder on April 3, 2023 at the age of 76. He embraced life with enthusiasm and wonder and an

indefatigable curiosity. A man of land, sea, and air, from his earliest days he explored it all. Whether as a teenager in California, living with red-tailed hawks and owls and a tortoise that clambered across the lawn to munch on dandelions; or as Chief Engineer on passenger ships and container ships getting to know the peoples of the world; or flying his Cessna 180, enjoying the view from a perspective even higher than most birds — Jeff's wandering soul knew no bounds. After graduating from California Maritime Academy, wander he did. He used his time off from shipping to teach survival skills to young adventurers at Outward Bound in Maine. He sailed back and forth across the Pacific Ocean in his small private sailboats. He explored lands from Alaska to Australia and

places in between. Jeff retired from the Merchant Marine in 1993 and returned to his home base on San Juan Island. In 1998, he bought land in San Juan Valley, where he built a house with a view of the Straits of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic Mountains. He opened Valley Steel & Stone, a metal design and fabrication shop, in his daylight basement. He remained in San Juan Valley for the rest of his life with the love of his life, Wendy Shepard; their gratitude for 30 years together also knew no bounds. On San Juan Island, Jeff served on the San Juan Island Parks and Recreation Board, helping to create the present day Sunken Park in Friday Harbor. He also joined the Board of Friends of the San Juans, which works to protect the environment of the islands. His stone sculptures appeared at the Roche Harbor Sculpture Park, and his metal work adorned and strengthened many a new home. He provided the cover photo and charcoal drawing for Wendy's book, "Lucky to be Alive: A Love Story," celebrating his ten years with Lucky, the San Juan Valley Border Collie that adopted Jeff when he first bought the property. During Jeff's 45 years on the island, he made many friends. Early on, a workout/morning coffee group of retirees entertained each other, some for the last 25 years. Known for his generosity of spirit, Jeff was there whenever friends and colleagues needed help, whether with technical projects or personal support. His honesty, goodness, and kindness to people and animals alike endeared him to those who knew him. A champion of truth and justice, with a lively sense of humor, Jeff continually sent both serious articles and jokes to friends and colleagues. Reading those missives became a welcome ritual for recipients near and far. He will be missed. Jeff wanted no funeral or memorial service. If you want to send contributions to The Animal Protection Society, the Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, or The Friends of the San Juans, Jeff's beloved creatures of land, sea, and air would benefit from your help.

ANDREW BROWN

Andrew Brown shipped off to his final destination on April 22, 2023 at the age of 91. He put in a lot of productive years at sea in furtherance of the nation's economy and national security. When he turned 65 he filed for retirement and made good use of his M.E.B.A. pension. He is survived by many family and friends.

LAWRENCE BROWN

Larry Brown stood his final watch on January 22, 2021 at the age of 97. He was another member of the "Greatest Generation" who used his skills to help the free world persevere during World War II and his dedication and mariner skills were relied on in the nation's efforts in Korea and Vietnam. Larry had many great years at sea and enjoyed a long retirement. He will be missed.

WILLIAM BROWN

William Brown ended his earthly career on December 3, 2022 at the age of 80. He had a long and storied career that included many great years at sea traveling the world and keeping engine rooms running smoothly. Shoreside, he was a solid friend, an inspiration to many and an all-around good-guy. He is missed.

RICHARD BUTZEN

Rusty Butzen sailed into the hereafter on April 7, 2023 at the age of 58 after complications from Parkinson's Disease. He grew up in Fond du Lac Wisconsin and spent many days at the family cottage in Hancock WI, camping, fishing, boating, and tomfoolery that was sworn to secrecy. He gave college a try but after one semester he decided he needed a different challenge. He became an Army Ranger, served honorably and achieved the rank of Sergeant. After realizing that jumping out of airplanes is inherently foolish, he decided to give college another try. This time it stuck. Rusty received a bachelor's degree in Marine Engineering from Texas A&M – Galveston in 1992. While at A&M,

he discovered a talent for rugby and embraced all aspects of the game, both athletic and social. He loved "singing" in the bars after the games and the camaraderie of his teammates. His senior year at A&M he also found a little red head from Texas he decided to take back to Wisconsin. Chrissy and Rusty met and fell in love aboard the TEXAS CLIPPER training ship and eventually married. They lived in Fond du Lac and Rusty began shipping out around the globe with the M.E.B.A. on a variety of vessels. After many years of life at sea and earning his Chief Engineer's license he permanently moored his vessel in Fond du Lac. Chrissy and Rusty purchased their "little" retirement home in 2016 and Chrissy handed him the honey-do list she had been compiling for the last 20 years. But Rusty developed Parkinson's which curtailed his ability to complete her list. He was an incredibly active man who played rugby, softball, bowling and golf. Sports he didn't play he would watch on TV. Rusty loved competing and was a notorious card counter. It was a risky proposition to sit next to Rusty as he was known to "peek" at his neighbor's cards, a skill he learned from his mother. He enjoyed boating and fishing, water skiing, and just being outdoors. He loved to lift weights and exercise. Rusty was also a very faith filled man. He was a third-degree Knight of Columbus. He loved going to Mass and was brilliant at dragging his sleepy family to church every Sunday. His life was very full and all who knew him as blessed by his beautiful smile. He was not a man to speak a lot of words but when he did, they were always kind or funny or meant to be good for you. Family absolutely was the most important thing to him, and friends were family. He was the absolute best dad, a devoted husband, a true friend, and a treasure. Rusty is dearly missed by his wife Chrissy; children Bridget Butzen, Richard "Jake" Butzen, and daughter-in-law in training Chrissy U; sister Terri Darr; brothers Steven and Michael; in-laws Kimberly Aquirre

and Leslie Hock; nieces and nephews Hannah Darr, Erin Fitzpatrick, Collin Fitzpatrick, Malaki Butzen, Justice Butzen, Marcus Jr, Marisol Aquirre, Mateo Aquirre, Nikolia Nickolas, Zack Hock, Chris Hock, Justin Hock, Gabriel Hock, Simon Hock, Christiana Hock; great niece and nephew Athena Fitzpatrick and Ambrose Nickolas; as well as adopted family and friends.

TERRY CANNON

Terry Cannon steamed into the sunset on October 27, 2021 at the age of 68. He was a solid friend and shipmate who could fix anything, aboard ship or ashore. His friends loved hearing his tales of the sea, some of them were true. He had a colorful life and his absence makes the world a sadder place.

CARLO VIKING CARLSON

Carlo Carlson settled his accounts on January 19, 2023 at the age of 89. He was a resident of Lantana, Florida where he enjoyed a richly deserved retirement following a long and interesting career. He was known as a reliable and skilled engineer who kept his nose to the grindstone and his ships running smoothly. Carlo is missed by family and friends.

TIMOTHY CHESLEY

Timothy Chesley sailed toward distant lands on February 27, 2021 at the age of 75. At sea, he was devoted to the job, and he strung many great years together earning himself a good living. Ashore, he was man of faith, devoted to God and an inspiration to all, including his three sons. He retired in 2004 and spent his final years in Baltimore, MD.

TERRY LEE MICHAEL CHEEK



Terry Cheek made his last muster on May 29, 2023 at the age of 68. Besides Mississippi, Terry spent his childhood in Okinawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and Merced, California. He attended Merced

continued



College then transferred to the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, California. Upon graduating, he became a mariner and traveled the world. During one of his visits home to Merced, he met and fell in love with Kerry Davis. They were married on October 6, 1985. Terry and Kerry made their home in Atwater, CA where they raised their daughters Jessica and Nicole. Because of the nature of his job, he spent half a year at home and the other half at sea working on ships as an engineer. After he retired, he loved being able to spend more time with his family, especially his grandchildren, Jaden and Kinsley. He also enjoyed having time to work on various home projects and help family with theirs. Terry is survived by his wife of 37 years, Kerry Cheek, his daughters, Jessica Hernandez and Nicole Church, his grandchildren, Jaden and Kinsley Church, his brothers, Randy Cheek and Richard Cheek, his sister, Toni Tresidder and his many loving nieces and nephews.

CHARLES CHILDERS

Charles Childers shined off toward his eternal reward on May 25, 2023 at the age of 99. He had a long, colorful and prosperous career and sailed for his country and Union through peace and war. He was a devoted family man and a great friend. He is missed.

ALEX CHRYSANTHIS



Alex Chrysanthis rose above the horizon on September 22, 2022 at the age of 92. He was born in Greece and the Mediterranean helped foster his love

of the sea. In August 1968, he married Vaso and together raised two children, Alexandra and Anthony. His life's work kept him traveling the world and he loved to tell his family about the many places he visited. The mementos he brought them from Australia, Korea, Mexico, Russia and many other places were reminders of his love for his family. At home, you could find him busy with a project, often lending

his talents to friends and neighbors, or at the BBQ preparing for a family meal. When he retired, gardening became his passion. He enjoyed his lemon trees. But he was most proud of his family and fiercely loved both grandsons, Alex and Michael. He is survived by his wife Vaso, his children Alexandra and Anthony, his grandsons Alex and Michael, his sister Voula, and his niece Sevaste.

ROY CORNELIUS

Roy Cornelius was promoted to glory on June 24, 2023 at the age of 99. He sailed through peace and war, made a great living, and was a good union man. His long shipping career netted him many memories that were translated into great sea stories he would tell for the rest of his life. Roy is survived by many family and friends.

ROBERT WYLIE DAVIS III

Robert Davis was released from his earthly ties on September 9, 2022. He was a 1969 graduate of the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School when it was located in Baltimore, MD. He started sailing the world's shipping lanes and crossed the globe many times over. He primarily shipped with Lykes Brothers and American President Lines as a Chief Engineer. He was a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii and leaves behind many family and friends.

GINO DEL SIGNORE

Gino Del Signore reached the end of the line on November 16, 2020 at the age of 91. He had a long and distinguished shipping career with the M.E.B.A. and was a reliable force aboard M.E.B.A.-contracted vessels delivering the goods in both peace and war. He retired from the sea in late 1993 and leaves behind many family and friends.



ROBERT MICHAEL DIAZ SR.

Robert Diaz shipped off toward a better life on August 22, 2022 at the age of 77. He was

a lifelong Tampa, Florida-area resident who served in the U.S. Navy before he started his commercial shipping career. He was first an SIU member before sailing out as a ship's officer as an M.E.B.A. member. Robert retired from the sea in 2010. He is survived by his wife Daphne, son Robert M. Diaz II, daughter Kimberly Faxas, sisters Connie Faedo and Jeanette Garcia and one granddaughter.

PAUL JEFFREY DONNELLY SR.



Paul Donnelly Sr. crossed over on August 8, 2023, just shy of his 70th birthday. Known as "BIG" by all who loved him, he is

survived by his loving wife Mary and children, Paul Jr. and Meaghan. His love for Mary was like a storybook and Paul Jr. shares a striking resemblance and love of sports and Meaghan has his fiery personality to a tee. He is also survived by his sisters, Susan Neva and Deborah Kelley, who he loved so much. They all share the same infectious laugh, and he loved sharing stories with them of their childhoods. Paul loved being a husband, dad, son, and brother more than anything. He loved each and every member of the Donnelly and O'Callaghan families more than words can say. In 1979, Paul began sailing unlicensed and eventually retired as a Chief Engineer 30 years later. Mary joined Paul for his last voyage at sea in May of 2009 in San Francisco, California. During his time as Chief, Paul traveled to 50+ countries, made countless friends, and came home with more than just a handful of incredible stories. On October 27, 1980, aboard the SEALIFT ARCTIC, Paul and 24 other crew members aided in saving 313 Vietnamese Refugees in the South China Sea, which would become the largest single rescue of boat people to date. On November 15, 1994, off the Florida Coast, The CHERRY VALLEY rescued a tugboat carrying a NASA fuel tank which was to be used for the first ever docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. Paul was the First

Engineer and as Captain Skip Strong said in his book "In Peril," Paul being in that engine room was instrumental in the successful operation. After retiring from the sea, Paul started Cape Cod Marine Consulting Group (CCMCG). In 2010, at the age of 55, Paul joined the Cape Cod Senior Softball League (CCSSL). Some of his favorite days were spent on first base or at home plate as a leftie. To no surprise, he would become the President of Division 1, and Manager/Player of the 60's Travel Team. When Paul loved something, he gave it his all. Paul's love of sports (specifically Boston) started when his Dad took him and his sister Susan to see Ted Williams at Fenway Park. For many years, you could find BIG every Sunday tailgating at Gillette Stadium, attending more than 50 home games as a season ticket holder. Though Paul had traveled all over the world, he only called home to a few special places. He loved a warm July night in the pool at Schooner Drive in Cotuit, and eventually, a 'cool' January night on the lanai of their home in Bonita Springs, FL. He loved his family trips to the beaches of Saint John, and could always be found by the speaker - playing everyone's favorite music. Paul made a profound impact on everyone he met. He was known as a great storyteller. After you chatted with him, you always felt a bit more optimistic. He rooted for the underdog, and always wanted people to find success, but mostly happiness. Even after 39 years of marriage, Paul was smitten when Mary or "Mim" walked into the room - he always said she was "the most beautiful woman in the world." Paul loved being a Dad, and he bragged about his Paulie and Meags any moment he could. He was their biggest cheerleader, and cherished all of the time they spent with him. He always let them know how proud of them he was. Paul was larger than life, and his family and friends will continue to "Live BIG" in his memory.

ALVIN F. DOUGLAS



Alvin Douglas crossed over on June 30, 2022 at the age of 82. He was a popular shipmate, a great guy who was steadfast and extremely

competent. Alvin made his home in Baltimore, MD and is missed by many family and friends.

MICHAEL DOUGLAS



Michael Douglas departed this life on September 2, 2023 at the age of 67. Mike spent most of his adult life at sea and earned a good living during a

memorable career. His retirement was too short but he made his time on earth count. He is missed by many friends and family including his wife Ladell.

THOMAS DOYLE

Thomas Doyle was released from his earthly bonds on July 17, 2021 at the age of 93. He was a true friend, good shipmate and excellent engineer. He put in many good years at sea and finally settled down to retirement in 1991. He is survived by many family and friends.

RICHARD JOSEPH GABEL



Ricky Gabel sailed off toward his final port call on September 13, 2023 at the age of 72. Ricky spent many good years at sea turning wrenches

and keeping his engine rooms running smoothly. Beyond his professional life, Ricky had a passion for fishing. He is survived by his loving spouse Brenda Jo Shows Gabel; children Heather Jordan and Ricky Johnson; six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. He is also survived by his sisters, Dianne, Georgie, and Glenda.

CHARLES MARTIN GARVEY



Charles Garvey sailed into the sunset on March 22, 2020 at the age of 63. Charles suited up with the Union in

2001 and proved his

worth as a hardworking engineer and excellent shipmate. Sailing out of the New Orleans hall, he shipped out on a variety of deep-sea vessels including the OVERSEAS HARRIETTE and LIBERTY SUN. Later on, he sailed out of the Houston hall and spent many productive years on the MTL Express-class vessels including the YORKTOWN EXPRESS, a favorite of his. He was a resident of St. Louis, MO and is missed by his wife Laurel and sons Mark and Jonathan.

ALAN LLOYD GRAVES



Alan Graves reached his journey's end on August 22, 2023 at the age of 78 at his home in Seattle. He was born in

Louisville, KY but

spent most of his childhood in Coral Gables, FL. He was a 1967 Kings Point graduate. Initially, he was employed by Lykes Brothers Steamship Company to support US Navy transportation of wartime supplies to Vietnam. Alan reached Chief Engineer status and traveled to ports in South America, Africa, Far East and South Pacific until his retirement in 1989. He loved his career at sea traveling the world, and always said, "I often marveled that I got paid for doing this." After retirement from sea, Alan completed a paralegal program at SFU in Francisco, CA, moving to Seattle in 1991. He was employed as a stationary engineer at Seatac Airport, King County Court House and UW Medical Center in the Facilities and Management Department. Alan continued his love of ships by volunteering as a Chief Engineer on the historic Seattle steamship, the S/S VIRGINIA V, for

continued



over two decades. He mentored many volunteers, sharing with them his knowledge of the mechanical workings of the 100-year old ship. He will be remembered for his strong work ethic, creative mind, politically pointed sense of humor, love of music of 50's and 69's, and devotion to family and cats. Alan is survived by his wife Marjorie Graf; his sister Diana Steinberg; brother William Graves; nieces Jamie Tropeppi and Angela Pinto and their children; and nephew Michael Steinberg.

PAUL JOHN GRIEGER JR.

Paul Grieger, Jr. set course for calmer waters on March 17, 2023 at the age of 89 in Poughkeepsie, NY. Born in the Bronx, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Kings Point and a master's from RPI. He sailed as Chief Engineer during a productive career at sea. Paul was a volunteer member of AB Shaw Fire company in Claverack. He enjoyed collecting trains and antiques from the Revolutionary War era. He is survived by his sister-in-law Mary Grieger, nephews Robert and James Grieger, nieces Jeanne Maresca and Cathy Gallinger, nine great nieces and nephews, two great-great nephews and one great-great niece.

GEORGE HACKETT

George Hackett crossed the great divide on April 6, 2023 at the age of 80. He retired from the sea in 1997 after many great years and his M.E.B.A. pension served him well in his golden years. George was a consummate engineer and good union man. He is missed by family and friends.

CHARLES MICHAEL HALL



C. Michael Hall sailed toward distant lands on May 18, 2023 just shy of his 74th birthday. Born with a cleft palate, a childhood of medical appointments and surgeries turned into his signature crooked grin. Mike graduated from Berwick High School

in Maine in 1967. He then attended and graduated from the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School in Baltimore, MD. His shipping career would span 35 years as he traveled the world, eventually retiring as Chief Engineer of the CSX PRODUCER in 2002. In his retirement, he became a golf rules official and volunteered his time with the NH Golf Association, Maine State Golf Association, New England Golf Association and the Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Although he enjoyed all of the tournaments he worked, his favorites were the amateurs. He loved nothing more than to see "his kids" succeed, following their careers for years after they would initially meet. Mike's infectious personality was larger than life, his gift for gab well known. If there was ever a crowd at a party, you could be sure that it was around him. He never met a story that he couldn't retell, naturally with a little "C. Michael embellishment." A long-time trivia buff, he loved little known facts, finding out where things came from, and reading about history. Mike's positive outlook and steady guidance helped many through the tough times they faced. C. Michael is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Gayle Whitney, and her son Sean Powell, daughter Angela Hall, brother R. Gene Hall, sister Geri Hall, brother JT Hall, along with his only grandchild, Cameron Hall. Mike was also loved and survived by countless cousins, nieces, nephews, friends, co-workers, neighbors and shipmates.

BRIAN OWEN HALLORAN



Brian Halloran set course for calmer waters on May 25, 2023 at the age of 77. Brian was a proud US Navy veteran and attended SUNY Maritime College earning an engineering degree. In 1986, Brian and his family moved to the Outer Banks. Brian is survived by his older brother, Roger Halloran; his daughters Erinn Bennar, Kellye

Halloran, and Tracy Halloran; and his four grandchildren Owen Halloran, London Halloran, Addason Halloran and Brooklyn Halloran. He also leaves behind his furry companion Kona, the family dog who was by his side.

WAYNE E. HAMILTON



Wayne Hamilton made his final crossing on July 2, 2023 at the age of 69. His father was a Home Mission (pastor) of the Church of the Nazarene and

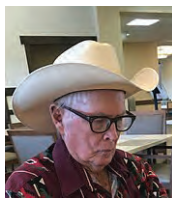
Wayne's early formative years were lived throughout small towns in California, Idaho and Nevada. By middle school the family settled in Lakewood, California. He graduated High School from the Army & Navy Academy, class of 1972 at the rank of Sergeant Major. Wayne attended California Maritime Academy and graduated with a BS in Nautical Science and Third Mate shipping license. During his senior year training cruise, Wayne met his future wife on the island of Curacao. Wayne proposed to Rosemarie during our National Bicentennial, they exchanged vows on September 3, 1977. For over 34 years they resided in Northern Westchester where they raised their 4 children. Wayne advanced his Merchant Marine License to Captain as a member of the Master, Mates & Pilots, sailing for multiple companies. His time on shore was spent pursuing his hobbies of carpentry, auto motor repair, motorcycle riding and family trips to our nation's National Parks. After 28 years of sailing Wayne retired after an accident on board ship in December 1999. Wayne completed his rehabilitation at Helen Hayes Hospital where he then volunteered and gave support to other amputees in their Prosthetic and Orthotics Dept. He served as Scout Master for 6 years with Troop 165, mentoring 11 scouts to obtain their rank of Eagle. Pursuing his life-long dream of owning his own business, he ran Iron Willies Pool Hall in Yorktown for 5 years and then Point Lookout Inn & Restaurant in East

Windham, N.Y. He devoted 2 years to repairs and renovations and reopened under "Captains Inn Point Lookout." He is survived by his wife Rosemarie, daughter Shannon, son Jason, daughter Victoria, son David, grandson Nathaniel, mother Joyce, sisters Yvonne Miller and Janet Reynolds, many cousins, nieces, nephews and special friends who were his chosen family.

THEODORE EDWARD HANNA

Ted Hanna eased into eternity on March 17, 2023 at the age of 94. He was a family man, good friend and excellent engineer. He was a resident of Crawfordville, FL and his two sons were with him at the end. Ted had been retired since 1992 and is missed by family and friends.

DAVID ALBERT HARRIS



Dave Harris sailed toward distant lands on January 26, 2022 at the age of 94. He played football at his Llano, TX high school where

he lettered. Football remained a joy for him his entire life. Dave served in WWII in the US Navy aboard an aircraft carrier. After the war, he shipped out as a mariner and attained the rank of Chief Engineer mostly sailing tankers. He helped ship jet fuel under naval escort during the Vietnam War. Dave was a dedicated sailor and seldom left ship for ports of call. He traveled the world on board ships and became a licensed private pilot. He owned his own plane and would fly to Fredericksburg often when he was off duty. He had the first private hangar at Gillespie County airport. In his spare time at sea, he would plan his dream of retiring to his family ranch to construct and operate a large commercial hog producing operation. He retired from the sea in the 1970s to begin his "retirement" in farming, cattle and goat production, along with a sow farrowing operation. Dave's passion for animals, both wild and domestic was noticed by all who visited. He would adopt stray dogs, injured birds,

and go to any length to nurse a sick or injured animal back to health. He was a dedicated conservationist who battled all enemies of the rangeland. He faithfully fought to keep his ranch free of cedar, mesquite, cactus etc. All the way into his late 80s one could find him in the heat of the summer, spraying prickly pear, snipping or spraying brush or weeds, repairing fences, and baling hay for himself or neighbors. He could always find time to help a neighbor or friend in need. He worked hard every day to be a good steward of God's creation. On his 90th birthday he received as a surprise gift, a helicopter tour of his beloved ranch. He marveled at the years of hard work that lay below him. He toured the countryside for about an hour, snapping pictures, directing the pilot to get low for this spot or that one. Shortly afterward, Dave decided a second retirement was in order and opted for assisted living as cold weather "is just not enjoyable anymore." He moved into the Villages at Windcrest and remained there actively engaging other clients with sea stories, tales of old Fredericksburg, TX days etc. He especially enjoyed visiting with anyone that could speak German. Always dignified, never complaining (unless he ran out of chocolate or fruit) he could still crack a joke, be polite and humble in his last days. He is survived by sister in-law Billie Jean Harris and nephews Brady and Bret Harris.

JAMES WILLIAM HARRIS

Jim Harris made his final crossing on April 4, 2023 at the age of 64. He was a good engineer who graduated from Texas A&M. Jim is survived by his wife Virginia, sons Sean and Patrick Harris, stepson Joseph Groover, and grandchildren Aurora, Beauregard, and Zoey. He is also survived by his brother Jeffery Harris, uncle James Pearl, and aunt Kay Pearl.

WILLIAM HARRIS

Bill Harris reached his final shore on August 28, 2023 at the age of 82. Bill had been retired since 1997 and his life at sea traveling the world's shipping lanes was good fodder

for the sea stories that he delighted to tell. He was a good father and friend and is missed by many.

WALTER ANTHONY HATTON



Walter Hatton sailed into glory on September 28, 2022 at the age of 89. He was a 1955 SUNY graduate who sailed as Captain (Master

Ocean Unlimited) on a variety of ships. He navigated around the world numerous times, while transporting crude oil, cement, West Virginia coal, grain, and other cargos to and from ports in every corner of the globe. He captained the CAPE ARCHWAY and delivered munitions and troops during Operations Desert Storm (1990) and Operation Uphold Democracy (1994). He was also a Naval Reservist. Walter was married to the love of his life Florence for 64 years. As he settled down from his shipping career, he and Florence enjoyed raising their boys and cattle, first in Connecticut and later at the farm in Troy, West Virginia — with plenty of room so they could expand the farming operation. He spent 48 years as an active member of the Gilmer County, WV community. He was an avid reader of the Wall Street Journal and was a 47-year member of the West Virginia Farm Bureau. In addition to raising Simmental Cattle, he enjoyed training his dog, Peaches. He is survived by Florence, sons Robert, Michael, James and Joseph, five loving grandchildren Mariah, Jennifer, Nicole, Emily and Nicholas Hatton, and several nieces and nephews and their children.

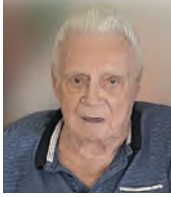
BLAKE HAYNES

Blake Haynes answered the last call on August 3, 2022 at the age of 76. He was a hard-nosed mariner that was focused on the job aboard ship but knew how to have fun when he was shoreside. He strung together over 20 years of pension credit that served him well after he retired in 2001. Blake is survived by many family and friends.

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ARTHUR WALTER HEMMINGS



Art Hemmings sailed into the sunset on April 15, 2023 at the age of 86. He first suited up with the Union in 1969 and enjoyed a successful shipping career. Art lived an exciting and colorful life before he found the Merchant Marine, at which point his life took on a global flair, and he loved to tell stories of his multiple trips to the orient and recounting the number of times he had gone around the world. After escaping the cold of New Jersey, Art moved to St. Petersburg in 1978 and found a community that he enjoyed being a part of. As his sailing days came to an end, Art was grateful for the opportunities provided to him by the M.E.B.A. and eager to give back. He was appointed as our Tampa Union hall Representative in 1980, a position he served ably and enthusiastically for almost 24 years. He found purpose in his time at the hall, giving advice, advocating for “his” sailors and enjoyed listening to and telling stories while having a beer or two with the members. He was an extremely strong advocate of M.E.B.A.’s Political Action Fund and staged many events and raffles to drum up P.A.F. support. He was elected as a Delegate to the National M.E.B.A. Convention multiple times and was active with local labor and maritime groups. Art retired as Tampa’s Rep. in November of 2004. He resided in St. Petersburg, FL, but still stayed involved with the Union, even filling in at the hall as needed. Art enjoyed his time on the water whether it was traversing the globe or fishing in his boat. He loved baseball and playing the stock market. And while expressing how he felt wasn’t always the easiest thing in the world for him, he loved his sons and daughters. Art is missed by his many friends and family.

WILLIAM HUNTER

Eight bells rang for William Hunter on July 26, 2021 at the age of 96. He was a young man when World War II broke out, but he went to the defense of his country and enlisted in the Navy. Following the war, he continued to sail as a mariner and strung together many solid years of seafaring netting a good living and lifetime of colorful sea stories. He leaves behind many family and friends.

STERLING JACKSON

Sterling Jackson climbed the gangway to the great beyond on June 22, 2023 at the age of 84. His shipping heyday was the 1950s and ‘60s and he amassed over 20 years of pension credit which served him well once his retirement from the Union took hold in 1972. He is survived by many family and friends.

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR JEFFERSON JR.



MacArthur Jefferson, Jr. sailed into the wild blue yonder on January 19, 2022 at the age of 73. He grew up in Baltimore, MD and attended Dunbar High School, and later graduated from the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School when it was on Light Street in Charm City. He had a productive and well-traveled career as an engine room ship’s officer. Mac was well-known and well-loved by his community. He cared deeply for his friends, family, and his dog, Bishop. He is survived by brother Dr. Alphine W. Jefferson; devoted companions Gloria B. Samuel, Tammy Samuel, Maxine Gregory, and Charles Samuel; five nephews; one great nephew and two great nieces; and extended family Betty Brown, Pearl Minor, and Shirley Young. In addition to his family and friends, he was especially fond of his devoted friends Linwood Moore, Steve Lee, Tim Moore, and Kermit Gwathmey.

YIANNIS (JOHN) KATRAMADOS



John Katramados booked his final passage on the morning of June 5, 2023 after a brief illness. He was 93. Yiannis was a beloved husband, brother, parent, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to those lucky enough to have known him. He lived a life full of joy and generosity despite the hardships he endured early in life. Born in Piraeus, Greece, his childhood was disrupted by the onset of World War II. In 1941, he traveled with his Aunt Nitsa, Grandmother Polyxeni, and Uncle Giorgios to Chios, seeking safety from the German occupation of Greece. It was there he met his beloved future wife, Katina. From Chios he fled with family to Turkey, and eventually to Cyprus, where they lived as refugees for the remainder of the war. In 1946, Yiannis returned to Greece where he studied marine engineering. After completing his education and several years of sailing for work, he married Katina Parios in 1959 in Piraeus. They settled in Queens, New York, where they grew a family - a daughter, Jasmine, and son, George. In New York, Yiannis worked several jobs before starting a career as a port engineer with Sea -Land in 1967. He retired as Senior Port Engineer in 1993, having traveled the world on various vessels. He lived his retirement to the fullest - traveling, fishing in Southold, and continuing to build meaningful memories with those he loved. Yiannis left a lasting impression on all he met. While living in Drouseia, Cyprus during the war, he taught a local schoolboy how to swim. Decades later, that boy (who had since grown to become a doctor) visited Chios searching for Yiannis, wishing to thank him. There are countless stories such as this - of people touched by Yiannis’ generosity, kindness, and joyful spirit. He liked to entertain friends and loved ones by recounting his most memorable childhood stories - like the time he

built a mechanical scarecrow to keep birds from eating crops, but which accidentally scared the horse of a British military officer, who was thrown to the ground; or the time his homemade kite was mistaken for a paratrooper, causing an uproar and, again, getting him into trouble with the British. He lived a life of adventure and curiosity and in his final days his mind would wander to these joyful memories, which always brought a smile to his face. His strength of spirit, grounded perspective, and joy of life was contagious, even in his final moments. Yiannis leaves behind his wife Katina Katramados, his “angel without wings.” He is also survived by his sister Archontoula Panagiotaki, daughter Jasmine Arettines, son George Katramados, grandchildren Chris Arettines, Maria Arettines, John Katramados and Maggie Katramados, great grandchild Alexander Arettines, and countless other adoring family members and friends.

AUSTIN KENDRICK KILMER-MORRIS

Austin Kilmer-Morris sailed toward safe haven on May 19, 2023 at the age of 42 following a car accident. Austin lived a life fuller than what could ever be put into words. He was a marine engineer, a Bering Sea and Bristol Bay commercial fisherman, a volunteer firefighter, a glass blower, a skier, a climber, a surfer, a scuba diver, a world traveler, a wine connoisseur, a foodie, an audiophile, an art lover. But more than all of that, he was a giver: of his time, his resources, his knowledge, his belongings. If you had a problem that he thought he could fix, he was usually there with a solution before you could even ask. He was privileged to experience the world in a big way, and he wanted to share that with others, to experience the world with those he cared about. Austin was deeply loved by many relatives, chosen family, friends, colleagues, and travel companions. He made a lasting impact on everyone he met. Austin’s unexpected passing has taken from this earth an indescribable personality and sense of humor that will be missed by

many. But with that, his loved ones are left with countless memories and stories that will be forever cherished.

PATRICK LACONSAY



Patrick LaConsay sailed into glory on March 28, 2023 at the age of 84. He spent the majority of his childhood being raised at Catholic

Boys Home (CBH) in Mobile, AL which ignited his devotion and love of the Catholic Faith. Pat enlisted with the Marine Corps, and after boot camp received his Seaman papers and went to work for the National Maritime Union for six years. As his love of the ocean grew, Pat decided to enroll in nautical school, where he received his engineer’s license, evolving into a career with the M.E.B.A., from which he retired after 24 years of service. Pat was a very hard worker and strived to provide a good life for his family. Pat married the love of his life, Elinor Glynn Morgan in 1967. They had one son together, Andre LaConsay. With his retirement at age 55, he and Glynn decided to start a new life – on a pecan and citrus farm. It was a little piece of heaven for Pat, and he loved to create new life and watch things grow. He sat on the board of the Alabama Pecan Growers Association and was the founder of the Gulf Coast Satsuma and Citrus Co-Op in Baldwin County. Pat was also a volunteer Firefighter with the Styx River Fire Department. He was a jokester and could spin unbelievable tales that were often times true. He was an ardent Alabama Football fan. It was his dream to buy a motor-home and tailgate at home and away games once he retired – a dream that came to fruition. He was a member of the Red Elephant Club, and he and Glynn are still Tide Priders. He was a sports stats guy, and could always win in a game of sports trivia. Pat was deeply devoted to his faith, and instilled that faith into his family, attending mass every Sunday. He was an amazing grandfather and loved his grandchildren fiercely. He was a devoted husband, father, and

grandfather. He adored his animals – especially his dogs. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 55 years, Glynn Morgan LaConsay; son, Andre LaConsay; two grandchildren, Llyod and Rebekah LaConsay; six siblings: Jackie Salva, Irene Blakely, Mildred Barr, Anthony LaConsay, Vickie McClain, and Raymond LaConsay; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, and other cherished family and friends.

EDWARD ADAM LANNI



Captain Edward Adam Lanni sailed into the next life on December 16, 2022 at the age of 97. A dedicated husband and friend to many,

he was born in Rochester, New York, but relocated to Cocoa, FL. Capt. Ed proudly served his country for 56 years, 40 years in the U.S. government, and 16 years as a merchant mariner. He lived a full life that was filled with countless adventures throughout the world’s oceans. He was drawn to the sea as a young teenager and never looked back. He participated in numerous world events that spanned from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, along with many other conflicts thereafter. After retiring from the bridge, Capt. Ed pursued a much quieter life with his wife, Shirley. As a long-time resident of Cocoa, he enjoyed volunteering his time to many community activities. Some of these activities include being one of the original V-Cops for the local police force, serving on the board of the Cocoa Community Redevelopment Agency, being one of the founders of Cocoa Village Main Street, and serving as president for many years, raising money to build the Cocoa High School Football stadium and racetrack, being instrumental in raising money to refurbish the Derby Street Chapel, attending countless city council meetings and much, much more. He even threw his hat into the local political arena. The City of Cocoa has honored him

continued



numerous times by declaring May 11th Captain Ed Lanni Day and naming the newly developed T-Dock at Lee Wenner Park after him. He was also appointed Emeritus Ambassador for the Port of Cape Canaveral. Most recently, Capt. Ed received a replica of the WWII Merchant Marine Congressional Gold Medal. He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Shirley, daughters Ginger Pavelchik, Lauren Devol, son Jeffrey Ingram and daughter Livie West, along with his many loving grandchildren and great grand-children.

CLINTON LEIGH

Clinton Leigh sailed into the next life on December 24, 2022 at the age of 97. He was one of the many Greatest Generation heroes who fought for his country at an early age during WWII then delivered the goods around the world as a merchant mariner. Clint was a loyal friend, good businessman and he loved his family who adored him. He is survived and missed by them all.

JESUS MANUEL LOPEZ



Jesus Lopez crossed the bar on November 5, 2022 at the age of 88. Born in Puerto Rico, he enlisted in the Army to serve in the Korean War

then joined the M.E.B.A. to sail the world. He eventually earned his Chief Engineer's license and kept his engine rooms humming making numerous voyages on the world's sea lanes. He is survived by 6 children: Angel "Rafi" Lopez, Selma "Pinkie" Lopez, Maria Lopez, Ray Lopez, Jesus "Chico" Lopez and James Lopez. He was a devoted father to his children and husband of 65 years to Juanita Lopez. He was generous, smart, and kind and never expected anything in return. He was a father who exemplified discipline, pride, and a work ethic beyond reproach.

GARY WAYNE LUECK

Gary Lueck sailed off to his final port of call on July 27, 2023 in Shirley, New York at the age of 78. He was a longtime member who sailed out of the New York hall turning wrenches on a variety of vessels across the world's sea lanes. He retired from the sea and 1997 and is survived by many family and friends.

GEORGE PATRICK "PADDY" MAHONEY

Paddy Mahoney rose above the horizon on June 13, 2022 at the age of 41. He was a SUNY Maritime graduate who worked for the Staten Island Ferry for 16 years and served as Director of Administration, Ferry Division. He was a great dresser, a fine engineer, likeable, funny, caring, well-regarded and unique. Paddy is survived by brothers Conor and Brian among many others.

KENNETH JEFFERY MACLEOD

Ken MacLeod embarked on his final passage on April 10, 2023 at the age of 72. He served as the Chief Engineer on the Matson ship MOKIHANA (ex-PRESIDENT MONROE) for years. He was a longtime member who sailed for years and accrued over 20 years of pension credit which served him well in his retirement that began in 2012. Ken was a resident of El Cajon, California. He is survived by wife Shelia, sons Jacob and Barrett, brother Gregory and grandsons Wyatt and Mitchell MacLeod.

ROBERT MALOY



Robert Maloy shoved off toward his eternal reward on May 15, 2023 at the age of 63. He was a respected member who wasn't flashy

but did a damn good job. He retired from the sea in 2020 and is survived by many family and friends.

ROOSEVELT MERREN

Roosevelt Merren sailed into the next life on June 7, 2023 at the age of 91. He had been retired for 25 years following a productive seafaring career where he distinguished himself as an excellent engineer. He spent many years in New Orleans, Louisiana and recently lived in Clinton, MD. He leaves behind many family and friends including wife Shirley.

TERRY MILLER

Terry Miller made his final crossing on September 9, 2022 at the age of 71. He shipped out for years and was an engine room miracle worker in his days at sea. He earned a good living but finally put away his sea bag in 2002 and retired. He is survived by many family and friends.

RONALD A. MONTES

Ronald Montes shipped into eternity on June 8, 2022 at the age of 73. He strung together some great years at sea as a no-nonsense engineer who delivered the goods in both peace and war. He was a resident of Spring Hill, Florida and is missed by many family and friends.

ROBERT NELSON

Robert Nelson reached his final shore on January 7, 2021 at the age of 69. He enjoyed his retirement from the sea in 2006 and spent many happy days with family and friends, roving the country and enjoying the outdoors. He is missed by many.

ARTHUR ALLEN NEWBERRY



Art Newberry sailed into the sunset on May 1, 2023 at the age of 81. Art had a distinguished run at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering

School serving as the right-hand man for numerous Directors. He joined the Marine Engineering Department at the

School in 1977 when it was located at 9 Light Street in Baltimore. After the cadet program ended, he took a hiatus and pursued other opportunities for several years. In 1994, he was brought back in to head up Academics at the facility in Easton and helped lift the profile of the School to unprecedented levels. He had a thirst for pursuing academic excellence and helped shuttle the School through numerous accreditations and audits that they always mastered with flying colors. Born in Canton (Baltimore, MD), Art joined the U.S. Navy out of school and worked on ship diesel engines. He was a mechanical engineer and a Vietnam War veteran. He retired from the Navy as Chief Warrant Officer 4. At the CMES, he was the longtime Assistant Director (Academics) and at the time of his retirement in 2004, the 235-seat auditorium at the School was named in his honor. He was a resident of Aberdeen, MD and is survived by many friends and family including his wife of 11 years Jenny.

ROBERT NEWMAN

Robert Newman made his last muster on August 30, 2022 at the age of 65. He was a good mariner and good union man. He is survived by many family and friends.

JOHN OAKES

Jack Oakes found his safe haven on June 7, 2023 at the age of 76 at home on Puget Island, WA. In his early years, he became a skilled mechanic and machinist. He used his mechanical knowledge, skill and inventiveness to help his family, friends and neighbors. He was a quiet man with a kind heart who lived his belief that people should take care of each other. He enjoyed building and riding motorcycles and also building boats and sailing on the Columbia River. Jack went to sea at 19, starting out as a deckhand before attending the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School. He worked his way up to Chief Engineer for American President Lines over a 30+ year career. In 1972, he married Barbara Fisher

and they built a 32-foot Tahiti ketch. Together, they sailed along the west coast of the U.S. and Canada and to Hawaii. In 1980, Jack and Barbara moved to Puget Island where they raised their daughters, Elizabeth and Molly. He loved coming home to Puget Island, bringing presents from exotic places and spending time with his family. Eventually, he was able to share his love of being on the water with his whole family. Rebuilding and remodeling a 63-foot ketch with his wife, daughters, and close friends, he gave them the gift of adventure and a sense of independence while learning more about the world, sailing the west coast and across the Pacific Ocean. After ensuring both his daughters received good educations, Jack continued adventuring with his wife along the Pacific Northwest coast aboard the sailing vessel Rysing Tyde, in the lower Columbia River aboard the motor vessel Viking Lady, and across the U.S. by truck and camp trailer. He continued living his own dreams and supporting his family in theirs. In recent years, Jack had been enjoying spending more time on Puget Island among the beautiful orchard, garden, woodlot, and fields he and his wife had envisioned and developed. He loved the lower Columbia, faithfully feeding a flock of songbirds and hummingbirds, keeping track of osprey nesting pairs, and building a network of friendships. Jack is survived by his wife, Barbara, his daughters Elizabeth and Molly, his brother Brian and numerous friends.

ROBERT OBERLING

Bob Oberling awoke to life immortal on August 26, 2023 at the age of 71. He was a steady and decisive, nose-to-the grindstone kind of guy. Bob was a good union man and appreciated the life that M.E.B.A. afforded him. He recounted his many sea stories to his shoreside friends once his sailing days were over and is missed by many.

RICHARD PEACHMAN

Eight bells rang for Richard Peachman on June 17, 2023 at the age of 79. He

served Union and country honorably through peace and war earning over 20 years of pension credit that helped him build a comfortable shoreside life. His retirement took hold on the first day of 2000 and he spent many happy years with family and friends who will miss him deeply.

ROBERT LEROY PHELPS, SR.



Robert Phelps sailed into the wild blue yonder on September 17, 2023 at the age of 83. A resident of Roper, NC, he spent his

early years in Oregon before joining the Marine Corps. His next stop was the world's shipping lanes which he plied for 40 years as a member of the M.E.B.A. In his shoreside life he was a member of the Scuppernong Church of Christ and Unanimity Masonic Lodge #7 in Edenton, NC. An avid sailor, he also loved to fish. Surviving is his wife of nearly 58 years, Martha Twiddy Phelps; son, Robert L. "Bobby" Phelps, Jr.; sister, Mitzi Sexton; half-sister Betty Sue Gibson; half-brother Charlie Phelps; and other extended family members and friends.

JEFF A. PILLARD



Jeff Pillard unexpectedly steamed into the sunset on October 22, 2023 at the age of 48. Jeff was a Massachusetts Maritime Academy

graduate who made application with the Union in 1999. He shipped out on various vessels for APL, OSG and Central Gulf, among others, and had been sailing aboard the Matson combination container/roll-on, roll-off (CON-RO) vessel LURLINE as Chief Engineer. Jeff hailed from a proud M.E.B.A. family - his brother Jay is also a member. He was active at membership meetings and sailed out of the Boston Union hall. He was the beloved husband of Molly for the past 19 years, and loving

continued

father of Jamie and Justin Pillard, his pride and joy. He is also survived by two brothers, Gino and Jay, among other family. Jeff passed away on the anniversary of his father's passing. He is also survived by his in-laws Ron and Gail Edgett, his brother-in-law Ryan Edgett and his kids Sadie and Tyler and many cousins. He was a resident of Medway, MA for the past 16 years. He grew up in North Quincy and graduated from North Quincy High School. Jeff had his captain's license and enjoyed running whale watch boats for the New England Aquarium, out of Boston Harbor in his younger days. He liked spending time at the family home in Rockwood, Maine. He also cherished time spent with his lifelong childhood friends from North Quincy. Jeff enjoyed fly fishing, hunting, cooking, and hiking with his dogs, Ryder and Coral, and especially his late dog Bosun. Most importantly, Jeff loved spending time with his children and cheering them on at their sporting events.

JOHNNIE A. POLK

The ship's telegraph rang down 'finished with engines' on December 8, 2022 for Johnnie Polk at the age of 78. He graduated from Salisbury (MD) High School with the class of 1962, and then served in the U.S. Navy for the next four years. In 1966, he suited up with the M.E.B.A. blue and gold and started sailing deep-sea. He worked his way up through the ranks, becoming first assistant engineer and studied the laws of marine engineering at Seaman's Institute in New York State, and the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School in Baltimore. After a 25-year career in the M.E.B.A., he settled down and enjoyed farming and other activities. He loved tinkering and working on equipment, tractor pulls, and horse pulls. He was well known in the community by his friends for joking and carrying on. He leaves behind granddaughters Larissa, Thea, and Jhannah: three great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, as well as special friend Eulina Murray.

DONALD L. PUCKETT

Donald Puckett sailed into glory on December 31, 2020 at the age of 78. He was a skilled engineer and good shipmate who loved the seafaring life. He retired in 1997 and enjoyed well-deserved years with family and friends, and he loved the outdoors and traveling the world. He is survived by many family and friends.

WILLIAM RADICAN

Bill Radican sailed toward the great unknown on June 20, 2023 at the age of 78. He put in many good years at sea and retired in 2011 with a good pension. Bill was respected and loved by his many friends and family. He is missed.

HARRY RAHNER

Harry Rahner tied up at his final port on August 7, 2022 at the age of 83. He was a solid seaman, good friend and family man. He officially retired in 1986 and enjoyed some great years in Summerfield, Florida. He is survived by many family and friends.

ROBERT ROES

Robert Roes berthed at his final destination on February 6, 2023 at the age of 94. He enjoyed almost 24 years of retirement after a seafaring career that took him around the world many times on a variety of vessels. He is missed by many family and friends.

GEORGE ROGERS

George Rogers reached his final shore on February 11, 2023 at the age of 73. He enjoyed a 22-year retirement after a seafaring career that took him all around the world many times over. He was a success at sea and ashore and he is not forgotten by his many family and friends.



GEORGE A. RYDBERG

George Rydberg climbed the gangway to the great beyond on February 25, 2023

at the age of 71. Preston, Minn., was always home in George's heart, having spent most of his youth there. He sailed the Great Lakes as a cook for Interlake Steamship for over 38 years, retiring in 2010. George was the very definition of a valued community member. He enjoyed helping others and devoted much of his free time to giving back. He was generous with praise and loath to seek any attention for himself, preferring to stay in the background. Often, he provided lunch for members of the Ashland Police and Fire Departments and staff at the Vaughn Library. Other favorite ways to give back included activities that helped young people grow and learn. He volunteered many hours helping children at the elementary school, until his disease no longer allowed him to. He was a member of the Friends of the Vaughn Public Library, and volunteer at the Book Nook. In 2020, George was recognized as The Ashland Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year. George loved Christmas. He spent many hours ringing the bell for the Salvation Army and anointed his wife "Christmas Carol" for the Christmas season each year. He roped Carol into providing breaks during his marathon bell ringing sessions at Wal-Mart. George was a pro at cooking for hungry crowds, lending his skills to pancake benefits and cooked many meals for anyone in need. Survivors include his amazing, strong and dedicated wife of 44 years Carol, children Janelle Rydberg, and Brock, brothers Rick, Ted, and Rob, sisters Mary Hoffman and Kristin Rydberg, brothers-in-law Jim Harbaugh and Mark Pospychalla, who was a comfort to Carol and George in his final days. He is survived as well by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Videos featuring the "little greats," Maggie and Cam Palacios, provided George with lots of smiles. Lastly, he is survived by caring neighbors and scores of friends, including special friend, regular Thursday night dinner guest and gab session aficionado, Anne Miller. In remembrance of



George, his kids ask that you perform a small act of kindness today.

KIMBALL RUSSELL SAGE

Kim Sage sailed toward smoother seas on July 11, 2023 at the age of 66. He started sailing with the Union as an engineer in 1979 and put in some good years until 1986 when he last worked under an M.E.B.A. contract. Kim was a resident of Bonita, CA and is missed by family and friends.

RICHARD SCHOLZ

Richard Scholz stood his final watch on June 6, 2023 at the age of 70. He put in many great years with the M.E.B.A. sailing in peace and war on a variety of vessels. Rich took his well-deserved retirement in 2002 and is survived by many family and friends.

ROGERS SCHWARTZ

Rogers Schwartz sailed off to his final port of call on April 28, 2023 at the age of 95. He was a reliable engineer who had a good run with the Union sailing on all types of vessels around the world. He is missed by friends and family members.

CHARLES R. SHEPHERD

Charles Shepherd booked his final passage on September 24, 2021 at the age of 74. He had an excellent sense of humor and his friends delighted in the colorful shipping stories he'd relate with great delight. He was a resident of Port Charlotte, Florida and he is survived by many family and friends.

DEWAIN ALBERT SHUPP

Dewain Shupp made his final crossing on June 20, 2022 at the age of 75. He was a good shipmate and solid friend who was appreciated by his Union and shipping companies for his hard work. Dewain retired from the sea in 1998 with almost 30 years of pension credit, and he spent his final years in Reno, Nevada.

RALPH J. SIMS III



Ralph Sims sailed into the next life on June 1, 2023 at the age of 79. Ralph was an East Coast refugee, born in Natick, Massachusetts, and the oldest of 11. He couldn't wait to hit the road and begin his adventures at 17 years old when he joined the Navy. His career started in Chicago and soon after he shipped out to Japan, thus starting a life-long love affair with travel and adventure. He was proud to tell listeners that he had visited more than 110 countries. Ralph had a profound respect for world cultures and diversity - so much so that it got him in trouble. In 1963 when President John F. Kennedy was murdered, fellow sailors said the young president from Massachusetts deserved to die because of his affinity for blacks. Well, Ralph promptly gave them the beating they deserved. Ralph stood up to bullies his whole life and, in many cases, on someone else's behalf. Regrettably, Ralph was in Boston when he passed and not under his beloved cedar trees in the Pacific Northwest where he always returned. Few people know that Ralph planted hundreds of trees - they were his legacy. He could pick out almost any tree on his land and tell you when he put it in the ground. Ralph, Ralphie, Rafa and Rafael as he is known to friends and family, is survived by his nine siblings who stretch from Hawaii to Boston to Florida: Maureen Sims, Virginia Clifford, Betty Sims, Kitty Sims, Margaret Sims, Larry Sims, Jerry Sims, P.J. Sims, Jack Sims; dozens of nieces and nephews; daughter-in-law Elba Sims; and sister-by-choice, Flavia Heineman. One of his greatest creations was his son Seamus Paco Sims. Seamus preceded Ralph in death and both leave behind Ralph's sunset baby, James Williams and his wife Therese, five children and two grandchildren. Ralph can only be described as an enigma; no one person understood this complex soul that was

forged by the sea. Few people knew that the sailor with the stunning baby blue eyes would pay school fees for the children in the villages he loved in Mexico or that he never met a stray dog he didn't love, and that as much as he loved to travel Ralph would cut trips short to return to the PNW and count returning salmon, a favorite pastime, or plant more trees. Ralph was like the wind. He could blow gently through your life like a much-needed breeze on a hot summer night, he could fill your sails and propel you forward into a future you could never imagine, and he could be a tornado, tearing through everything and anything in its path. Franklin Roosevelt said, "A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor." Ralph's devoted caregiver and niece, Alicia Silva, would tell you that if Ralph were here, he'd tell you to "Work Less."

EARLE LEROY SMITH (SMITTY)



Earle Smith set sail toward smoother seas on February 2, 2024 at the age of 95. He was born in Dedham, Mass., and was raised mostly in

the Canadian Maritimes. He started his seagoing career at 16 years of age on a Canadian flag ship to South Africa during WWII. Smitty came back to America to continue his career for many years as an Electrician. He worked his way up through the hawsepipe to Engineer, and continued his 46-year long seagoing career as an M.E.B.A. Engineer where he spent much of his time on Lykes ships sailing as First Engineer. Smitty circled the globe on the seas many times, enjoying all the countries and cultures of the world, but his favorite ports of call were in Italy. His friendly nature caused him to be a favorite of shipmates and landlubbers everywhere he traveled. He enjoyed family, baseball games, fishing, cooking, and operating ham radio. After retiring he enjoyed traveling about the country in a motorhome with his much beloved wife, Nell Whitten Smith. Always quick with his great

continued



tales, he regaled all with his sea stories and kept everyone well entertained with his amazing sense of humor right to the very last day. All of Smitty's children followed in his footsteps by embarking on seagoing careers. Smitty was extra proud of his daughter Joy, who graduated from the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School in 1981 and was proud they were M.E.B.A. pensioners together for many years following their careers at sea. Smitty was also proud of his two sons and their distinguished seagoing careers. His oldest son, Earle Leroy Smith Jr., sailed as Captain on tugboats, and his youngest son, Edward Eugene Smith, sailed as Electrician and Pump-man. Smitty is survived by his daughter, Joy Smith, his favorite niece Tara Berman, nephew Edward Smith, and nephew Fredrick Smith. He is also survived by 2 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Smitty was predeceased by his wife, Nell Whitten Smith and two sons, Earle Leroy Smith and Edward Eugene Smith.

LEWIS SMITH

The keys went silent for Lewis Smith on June 11, 2023 at the age of 87. He came aboard as a member of M.E.B.A. District No. 3 (ROU) – the Radio-Electronics Officers Union.(ROU) and had a long and productive career transiting the world's sea lanes on a variety of vessels. He is survived by many family and friends and is missed.

ERICH KURTY SOLTES



Erich Soltes eased into the firmament on September 20, 2023 at the age of 57. He was an active member who had been serving aboard the Keystone-managed RRF vessel CAPE RISE as a deck officer. A 1988 SUNY Graduate, Erich worked on container ships, break-bulk cargo vessels and chemical tankers. During the First Gulf War he shipped out as a Third Mate responsible for the underway transfer of explosives between vessels, warehouse operations,

production and cost management, oversea and land borne cargo carriage handling. He was Third and Second Mate onboard LNG vessels operated by Energy Transportation Corporation between Indonesia and Japan. Erich was a retired officer with the US Navy Reserve and as a Chief Engineer on tugboats in New York Harbor. He was a resident of Port Orange, FL and is survived by many family and friends.

DANIEL VONDERFAFF

Dan Vonderfaff reached the end of the line on May 19, 2023 at the age of 68. He had a short career under the M.E.B.A. banner and retired from the Union in 1984 to pursue other interests and areas of expertise. He is survived by many family and friends.

RICHARD E. WALDRON



Richard Waldron made sail for the great unknown on July 14, 2023 at the age of 90. After his high school graduation, Richard

enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1951, and proudly served his country as a radio operator during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged on August 11, 1954. Following his time in the service, Richard graduated from UMass Amherst in 1959. After college, Richard's outgoing personality was a perfect match for the electronics sales field in which he spent over 20 years and met his second wife, Pauline, to whom he was married for 53 years. He moved from sales to the U.S. Merchant Marine where he traveled the world as a radio officer for 16 years before retiring in 1995. Richard maintained regular contact with the other enlisted men he was stationed with in the U.S. Air Force 511th Aircraft Control & Warning Group on Site 18 in Hokkaido, Japan. Starting in 1994, he enjoyed traveling with Polly to the Air Force 511th reunions in different cities around the country each year for over 20 years, ensuring his bond with his Air Force brethren remained unbroken. He was

one of the last remaining airmen from his group. A lifelong learner, Richard was an avid reader and authored two non-fiction books. One was an instructional book about commodities trading and the second documented his life experiences and time in the military in Japan during the Korean War. Richard will be remembered as a family man of integrity. He loved to laugh and spend time with those he loved. His life experience and lessons are part of his legacy that continue through his family. Richard will be missed by all the lives he touched. He was the devoted father of Veronica M. French, William B. Waldron, Joseph F. Waldron and Raymond R. Waldron. He was the loving grandfather of Nicholas T. French, Andrea L. French, Lena M. Waldron and Collin F. Waldron of Squantum. He was the dear brother of Kathleen Gershman, Marguerite Knight. Richard is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

JOHN WENDT

John Wendt crossed the bar on March 7, 2023 at the age of 96. He spent a fruitful career at sea, turning wrenches on a variety of vessels and earning a good pension. He hung up his boiler suit in 1993. He is survived by many family and friends.

THOMAS BOYD WHITTINGTON



Tom Whittington was released from earthly bonds on September 13, 2021 at the age of 97. He was born in McComb, Mississippi

then attended and graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He joined the Navy when the U.S. entered World War II and continued his service during Korea and Vietnam. As a merchant mariner, he was a Chief Engineer, and mainly sailed on Lykes Steamship Company vessels until his 1986 retirement. He was a member of the Summit Methodist Church and a Master Mason of the Summit #231 Masonic Lodge. Tom

is survived by daughters Lyndall Parrish and Marion Whittington; granddaughter Amy Parrish Gazzo; and great-grandchildren Jacob Parrish Gazzo and Kiley Elise Gazzo.

ANDRE LASALLE WILLIAMS



Andre Williams reached his final shore on July 17, 2023 at the age of 68. Andre's life was filled with love, accomplishments, and cherished moments. In 1966, a significant moment in his life came when he accepted Christ. His faith became the rock that guided him through life. His favorite prayer was the Serenity Prayer that he used to guide him from day to day. Education played a significant role in Andre's life, and he pursued his studies in the local school system in Westbury, New York. He went on to graduate from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Marine Engineering in 1977. This laid the foundation for his successful career as an Engineering Officer that spanned over forty years, allowing him to travel the world, which became one of his favorite pastimes. Among all the places he visited, Amsterdam and Egypt held a special place in his heart. In 1980, Andre met the love of his life, Mamie, in Jacksonville, Florida. Their love story blossomed, and on November 25, 1984, they vowed to share a lifetime together. Through the years, they built a family filled with laughter, love, and cherished moments, raising seven beautiful children who became the pride of Andre's heart. Andre instilled in his children the values of education, the importance of reading, his love for travel, and the importance of love and unity. There were so many memorable moments with Andre. He had a passion for music and cooking. The melodies of old school music like the Commodores filled the air while preparing his favorite dishes, such as beef jerky, and his famous steak and salmon. He may have traveled the world, but his home was wherever he found a friend, for

he never met a stranger. Andre's spirit shined bright in every room he entered, his presence bringing warmth and comfort to those around him. He loved sharing great stories, bragging about how proud he was of his children, and his infectious laughter brought joy to everyone around him. Andre leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories. He is survived by his beloved wife, Mamie Williams; their seven children, Auntoris "Tori", Carol "Michelle", Krystal, Florence "Smokey" (George), Christopher "Boy Boy," Timothy "Chicken" and Porscha; his memory will also be treasured by his grandchildren, SaToria, Zaniah, Tijari, Dejah, Emerie, Auntoris Jr. "AJ", George, Cairo, and Gabrielle. In addition to his immediate family, Andre is survived by his sister, Gwendolyn Williams; brother, Archie "Ish" Williams Jr.; nephew, Joseph Williams; and a host of other family members and friends who will forever cherish the time they spent with him.

ROBERT WILLIAMSON

Robert Williamson reached his journey's end on September 25, 2022 at the age of 65. During a successful seafaring career, he shipped out for a variety of companies on all types of vessels. He was an excellent mariner and good Union brother who retired in 2013. He is survived by many family and friends.

JAMES EVERETT WILLIS



James Willis booked his final passage on May 10, 2023 at the age of 95. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama. He leaves behind his devoted wife of 61 years Betty Kilpatrick Willis, son Charles Patrick Willis, daughter Susan Willis Smith and grandchildren Grant Willis Harrison, Aspen Summer Mahala Willis and Aaron James Smith. As a young man, Jim loved racing motorcycles, flying airplanes and gliders and driving fast cars. He was mechanically inclined and could fix anything. He enjoyed crop dusting as a hobby early in life and he

loved playing on his John Deere tractor during his farming years. He was drafted into military service in 1950 and spent two years in the U.S. Army as a Sergeant at Camp Polk, Louisiana. He met Betty in Birmingham and they were married in 1961. They lived in Houston then Friendswood, TX until Jim retired from the Merchant Marine after 40 years as an engineer and they moved back home. In Texas, they were active members of the Wesleyan Church. Early in their marriage, Jim and Betty enjoyed traveling across the country in his Bellanca airplane and two camper vans. They fondly remember one trip in the camper to Canada to see the 1967 World's Fair. He spent his 35 years of retirement in Laurel Hill, FL where he enjoyed raising his family and Limousine cattle, going to the Super Gym and tending to beautiful vegetable gardens and his fruit orchard. Throughout his life, Jim loved being a part of Betty's large family and considered them his own. As his health declined, Jim and Betty moved to Crestview, FL where they live with their daughter Susan. He was a devoted member of Christian Home United Methodist Church, the Experimental Aircraft Association and the Florida Panhandle Cattleman's Association. He volunteered for many years as a Deputy at the polls during Okaloosa County elections. He will be missed by his large, extended family and many friends.

MICHAEL WOOLFORD

Michael Woolford was released from earthly ties on March 17, 2023 at the age of 74. He had a long career with the M.E.B.A. and was a skilled mariner, respected friend and good Union brother. He is missed by friends and family members.

ALEX WOWCZUK

Alex Wowczuk shoved off toward his eternal reward on November 18, 2021 at the age of 94. He was described as a sweet, funny, kind, gentle, caring, loving and generous man. He brought joy to those around him and his heart was golden. He is missed by many family and friends.

Faces around the Fleet



Members aboard the Keystone-managed CAPE RACE on a turbo activation. In the top row (l-r) are 3rd A/E Will Horsley, Third Mate Nicole Caputo, Third Mate Cole Eddins, Chief Mate Tom Molnar, 1st A/E Mike Hillstrom, 2nd A/E Chris Shields and 3rd A/E Jay Kiste. Seated (l-r) are Second Mate Alyssa Billi, C/E Mikael Safarian and Captain Gary Hill.



Officers aboard the Ready Reserve Force vessel CAPE KNOX returning home after a long and successful Government mission. M.E.B.A. Deck Officers on the Keystone-managed vessel included (l-r) Third Mate James Monahan, Third Mate Brendan Jones, Chief Mate Jack Jansen, Captain Patrick McGourthy and Second Mate John Moore.



Member Erik Barton on the OSG OVERSEAS MYKONOS (which recently was accepted into the Tanker Security Program). The beautiful newbuild Pasha-Hawaii vessel JANET MARIE is seen over his shoulder in this selfie.



M.E.B.A. aboard the Norwegian Cruise Line vessel PRIDE OF AMERICA, the only large U.S.-flag cruise ship. Left to right are 2nd A/E Wyatt Card, 2nd A/E Ryan Wall, M.E.B.A. Honolulu Rep. Luke Kaili, Refrigeration Engineer Jim Fowler, Staff Chief Engineer Patrick Calder, 3rd A/E Christopher Curran, 3rd A/E John Nakashian, Environmental Engineer Joshua Kelleher, 3rd A/E Robert Resino and 2nd A/E Gregory Downs.



M.E.B.A. Deck Officers in the Lone Star State during a port stop by the Pure Car/Truck Carrier ALLIANCE NORFOLK (M-Ships). Left to right are NORFOLK Chief Mate Martin Weller, Houston Rep. Capt. Jay Wedman, and NORFOLK Captain Dan Davis.



In the EOS of the Jumbo Class Washington State Ferry M/V SPOKANE are (l-r) Oiler Mike Walton, AE Kyle Murray, C/E Jake Fulton and Oiler Brenden Birsá.



POID Representative April Fleischer and Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini travelled to Nashville for the unit's October Town Hall meetings. They met with bargaining unit members and delegates to begin preparations for contract talks coming up in 2024. Left to right are Jared Clemmons-Mitchell, POID Delegate Jason Yarbrough, POID Rep. April Fleischer, EVP Claudia Cimini, POID Delegate Lawrence Jeter, Reginal Johnson, and POID Delegate Emmanuel Adjei.

M.E.B.A. DIRECTORY



Adam Vokac
President



Roland "Rex" Rexha
Secretary-Treasurer



Claudia Cimini
Executive V.P.



Jason Callahan
Atlantic Coast V.P.



Adam Smith
Gulf Coast V.P.

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Crewmembers aboard the NCL PRIDE OF AMERICA replacing one of the small engines on a tender boat. From left to right are 3rd A/E Tyler Guard (M.E.B.A.), Engine Repairman James Sandoval (SIU) and 3rd A/E James Fava (M.E.B.A.). The photo was taken by M.E.B.A. Staff Chief Engineer Patrick Calder.



U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visited Mukilteo and Port Orchard Washington last year and discussed Washington State Ferry modernization efforts. M.E.B.A. WSF Rep. Eric Winge caught up with the Secretary and gave him some insights about the WSF and the hardworking mariners in the fleet.



Members practicing a piston pull in a Diesel Engineering course at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School. Left to right are Lee Blume, Nicholas Ridgway, Hana L. Stevanovic and Louis Santiago. Thanks to D.E. Instructor Ernie Clements for the photo!



M.E.B.A. officers (both Deck and Engine) onboard the LIBERTY PRIDE all sporting fabulous winter hats knitted by Third Mate Anna Hercules. From left to right are Chief Mate Ellsworth "Rio" Gordon, C/E Andrew Stamm, 2nd A/E Christopher Bullis, Second Mate Dominic Pope (MM&P), Captain Rafal Sluborski, Third Mate Anna Hercules, 3rd A/E Carli Thomas and K.P. Deck Cadet Kenneth Webb III. The vessel was on a US West Coast to Far East run.



Members aboard the Keystone-managed RRF vessel CAPE DUCATO on their return to Charleston from Poland following a ship activation. Left to right are 3rd A/E Shane Swisher, 3rd A/E Madison Rice, M.E.B.A. Charleston Rep. Giancarlo Mahalik, 1st A/E Kristina Belyea, 2nd A/E Michael Christensen and 3rd A/E Brian Maddock filling the Electrician billet.



On the Matson vessel RJ PFEIFFER in Alameda, CA, M.E.B.A. Oakland dayworkers assist Wartsila and the vessel's Chief Engineer with camshaft replacement of all three of the ship's diesel generators. Dayworkers left to right are Matt Perry, Alex Dunn, Sabrina Brown and Christian Yuhas. At far right is C/E Pat Preston. The photo was taken by Matson RJ PFEIFFER Port Engineer Kenneth Boothby.