

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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In this issue//Help Drum Up Senate Co-Sponsors for WWII Mariner Gold Medal Bill//STCW Survey Needs M.E.B.A. Input//Fisheries Industry Doesn't Like Proposed Jones Act Modification//New Website Urges Restoration Of AMHS Funding//Former MarAd Boss Warren Leback Sails into the Sunset//M.E.B.A. Chief Profiled in CG Proceedings Magazine//End of Fairly Active Hurricane Season//USNS MERCY Trains for Next Mission//Cavalcade of Awards Continues for GREEN LAKE//Make It a Union Holiday Season//

HELP DRUM UP CO-SPONSORS FOR SENATE WWII MARINER GOLD MEDAL BILL

Maritime interests are making a concerted end-of-the-year effort to drum up additional co-sponsors for a Senate bill honoring World War II merchant mariners. The industry was heartened earlier this year when a House bill authorizing a Congressional Gold Medal to collectively honor WWII mariners was passed on the House Floor. But the the Senate has not yet addressed comparable legislation and must act before this long overdue tribute to our Fourth Arm of Defense can become law. The medal honoring WWII mariners would be displayed in the American Merchant Marine Museum at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and duplicates would be made available to the public. The legislation needs to be acted upon before the 116th Congress expires at the end of 2020 or efforts must begin anew.

The Senate has a companion bill (S. 133), which was introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). As of today, S. 133 has 53 co-sponsors attached to it. If your Senators have not yet added their names to the list of co-sponsors, you are urged to remind them of the crucial role mariners played in our country's winning effort in WWII. You can visit this link to view the list of co-sponsors to S. 133: www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/133/cosponsors. Adding to the bill's list of co-sponsors will increase the chances for its success.

You can call your Senator via the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and/or navigate to a Navy League weblink that will let you send a ready-made letter to your Members of Congress urging support for the Gold Medal bill honoring our Fourth Arm of Defense. Go to <https://www.votervoice.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/59995/Respond>

STCW SURVEY NEEDS M.E.B.A. INPUT

Take a few moments to fill out a quick survey that will help out mariners around the world. The Nautilus Federation is asking M.E.B.A. mariners to answer a quick online survey highlighting Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW). Responses will aid the Federation in an upcoming STCW review which has great bearing on seafarers. The survey closes down next week on December 12th, so take a few minutes now to put in your input.

M.E.B.A. is an affiliate of the Nautilus Federation which represents international mariners and shipping professionals with the objective of spotlighting officer issues such as criminalization, fatigue, and the impact of automation. The link can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NFedSTCW

The Federation has stated the need for a high response rate from all affiliates to legitimize captured data as reflective of mariner opinion. Survey respondents will be asked to identify their union so M.E.B.A. is looking for a good showing. Please check out the quick survey and weigh in!

FISHERIES INDUSTRY DOESN'T LIKE PROPOSED JONES ACT MODIFICATION

Fisheries industry interests have joined the opposition to a proposed U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) modified Jones Act interpretation that would aid offshore oil, gas and wind entities among others. The CBP proposal would redefine “vessel equipment” under the Jones Act to include “those items that aid in the installation, inspection, repair, maintenance, surveying, positioning, modification, construction, decommissioning, drilling, completion, workover, abandonment or similar activities or operations of wells, seafloor or subsea infrastructure, flowlines, and surface production facilities.” The proposal would also clarify that “certain lateral movements do not constitute transportation under the Jones Act,” an interpretation that would clear the way for certain foreign-flagged vessels to perform work formerly restricted to U.S.-flag vessels with American mariners.

The Customs Bulletin can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/y6q5g8wo>

US fisheries advocacy group Fisheries Survival Fund (FSF) lambasted the CBP proposal saying the modifications “would place foreign-owned offshore wind energy companies at a unique advantage not afforded to the thousands of U.S.-owned maritime industries” and “would jeopardize the countless job opportunities for domestic laborers who would otherwise benefit from the build-out of offshore wind facilities.”

“These proposed modifications would place foreign-owned offshore wind energy companies at a unique advantage not afforded to the thousands of US-owned maritime industries, including commercial fisheries,” said FSF counsel David Frulla. The Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), a coalition of fishing industry associations also wrote to CBP expressing “serious concern” over the proposed modifications.

NEW WEBSITE URGES RESTORATION OF AMHS FUNDING

“Friends of the Alaska Marine Highway System” have launched a new website promoting the benefits of the Last Frontier’s ferry system and urging the Alaska legislature to restore funding for the critical transportation network. Earlier this year, massive State budget cuts majorly impacted ferry fleet operations leading to diminished service for Alaskans, many who live in remote locations and depend on the AMHS. The ferry fleet serves as a crucial connector for Alaskan communities spread out over 3,100 miles.

The site - www.FriendsofAMHS.org – catalogs the latest news and developments at AMHS and urges residents to contact their lawmakers to restore funding. Check out the website for more. They can also be emailed at FriendsAMHS@yahoo.com or reached by phone at (907) 419-7113.

CAPT. WARREN LEBACK, WWII MARINER, MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR, SAILS INTO THE SUNSET

Captain Warren G. Leback, who had a 65-year career in the maritime industry, including several years as the nation’s Maritime Administrator, has died at the age of 95. He got started at the age of 18 when he served as a cadet midshipman on the Liberty ship JOSEPH MCKENNA during World War II on multiple missions. He also saw some action as part of the McKENNA’s anti-aircraft gun crew and

received a Merchant Marine Combat medal for service at Guadalcanal. After his discharge he attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and graduated in January, 1944. He then returned to sail on Grace Line ships in the South Pacific Theater. In 1947, Warren received his Master's License, which he maintained until his death. Warren worked for Grace Line on various vessels until 1960 and captained the SANTA MONICA. He then held managerial positions for Grace Line, Central Gulf Steamship and Sea-Land Service – all M.E.B.A. contracted companies. He later held executive positions for the Interstate Oil Transport Company and El Paso LNG Company in Houston. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed him as Deputy Maritime Administrator in the U.S. Department of Transportation. In 1985, he joined Puerto Rico Marine Management, Inc. as Senior Vice President then headed back to MarAd in 1989 when President George H.W. Bush appointed him as the nation's Maritime Administrator. In 1993, following the end of his MarAd service, he returned to the private sector.

His last maritime-related position was as President of First American Bulk Carrier Corporation. FABC was a subsidiary of the M.E.B.A. Pension Trust that most recently oversaw the operation of a pair of U.S.-flag vessels – the DELAWARE BAY and the CHESAPEAKE BAY – until their sale in 2004. Warren was bestowed with an abundance of accolades for his lifetime of maritime service including the prestigious AOTOS award. A more complete obituary, referencing many of his maritime stops, has been posted on the M.E.B.A. website. His memorial service will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at 2:00 pm at Stonebridge at Montgomery, 100 Hollinshead Spring Road, Skillman, New Jersey 08558. Donations can be made in his memory to Friends of the American Merchant Marine Museum., c/o Capt. Emil Muccin, U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York 11024.

M.E.B.A. CHIEF ENGINEER PROFILED IN CG PROCEEDINGS MAGAZINE

M.E.B.A. Chief Engineer Lindsay Smith is profiled in the new Coast Guard Proceedings Magazine that highlights the role of women in our industry. The issue, with the headline of “Pioneers & Prodigies” features Chief Smith on page 24-25. She is a 14-year M.E.B.A. member who has sailed with Norwegian Cruise Line-America her entire career. When she became Chief Engineer on NCL's PRIDE OF AMERICA about five years ago, the company ascertained that she was most likely the first-ever female Chief of a large passenger vessel.

The Lindsay Smith article from Proceedings Magazine has been uploaded to the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) for your reading pleasure.

END OF FAIRLY ACTIVE HURRICANE SEASON

The 2019 Atlantic hurricane season ended on November 30 after producing 18 named storms, including six hurricanes of which three were “major” (Category 3, 4 or 5). Beforehand, NOAA's outlook predicted 9-15 named storms, 4-8 hurricanes and 2-4 major hurricanes. An “average” season has 12 named storms, six hurricanes, and three major hurricanes.

This year marks the fourth consecutive above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. The only other period on record that produced four consecutive above-normal seasons was 1998-2001. Also this year, five tropical cyclones formed in the Gulf of Mexico, which ties a record with 2003 and 1957 for the most storms to form in that region. Of those, three — Barry, Imelda and Nestor — made landfall in the U.S. The three major hurricanes this season were Dorian, Humberto and Lorenzo. Hurricane Dorian is tied with three other hurricanes — the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane, 1988's Hurricane Gilbert and 2005's Hurricane Wilma — as the second strongest hurricane on record in the Atlantic basin in terms of wind (185 mph). In all, four storms made landfall in the U.S. during the 2019 season: Barry, Dorian, Imelda and Nestor.

USNS MERCY TRAINS FOR NEXT MISSION

Officers and crew on the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS MERCY are engaged in a quarterly exercise that keeps them ready for their next mission. The Mercy Exercise (MERCCEX), taking place pier side in San Diego, began earlier this week involving familiarization with Joint Trauma System clinical practice guidelines, Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC), flight deck drills, and training to prepare for upcoming humanitarian and disaster relief missions. Civilian Mariners in the Military Sealift Command fleet are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

CAVALCADE OF AWARDS CONTINUES FOR GREEN LAKE

The crew of the Pure Car/Truck Carrier GREEN LAKE added to their recent accolades this week after the International Maritime Organization recognized them for a New Year's Eve rescue. Of late, the ship and crew have been recognized three other times for the 18-hour rescue effort that saved mariners from a burning car carrier near Wake Island. They were honored at a Washington D.C. Capitol Hill gold medal ceremony, presented with the AOTOS Mariner's Plaque and awarded Merchant Marine Medals for Outstanding Achievement as the ship earned the Maritime Administration's rare Gallant Ship designation.

This week, Captain William Boyce accepted the IMO's Certificate of Commendation on behalf of the GREEN LAKE crew for their "seamanship, tenacity and leadership" in the rescue. Waterman Transport Inc. (formerly Central Gulf) manages the vessel which is enrolled in the Maritime Security Program. M.E.B.A. officers onboard the vessel during the incident included C/E Joseph Tierney, 1st A/E Shauna Glasser, 2nd A/E Thomas Pollock and 3rd A/E Maria Asuncion.

MAKE IT A UNION HOLIDAY SEASON

Labor 411 is urging us to spend our hard-earned money on products made by businesses that treat their employees fairly with good pay and benefits. This holiday season, they challenge consumers to allocate at least 10% of their spending on goods produced by companies that treat their workers well, or at establishments that do the same. Here are a few Labor 411 suggestions (listing some recommended products on the "good" list along with the union) to give you some ideas and help steer you in the right direction:

Tools - Armstrong (IBEW); Black & Decker Tools (UAW); Channellock (IAM); Craftsman (IBEW); Klein Tools (IBEW); Ridgid (IBEW); SnapOn Tools (IBEW, UAW); Stanley Hand Tools (IBEW); Warwood (IBEW). **Sports & Leisure** - American Athletic Gym Equipment (UAW); Louisville Slugger (USW); MacGregor Golf Clubs (IBT); Nordic Track (IBT); Standard Golf (IAM); Wilson Sporting Goods (Workers United). **Clothing** - All American Clothing (IBEW); Brooks Brothers (UNITE HERE!). **Wheels** - Harley Davidson (USW); Ford Mustang (UAW); Jeep (UAW). **Fashion** - Bosca Fine Leather Goods (IBT); Majestic Athletic Apparel (UNITE HERE!); Carolina Women's Boots (IBT); Naturalizer Shoes (UFCW); Nunn Bush Shoes (UFCW); Pendleton Woolen Mills (Workers United); Timex Women's Watches (IAM). **Beauty Products** - Dove Beauty Products (UFCW); Ralph Lauren (UNITE HERE!); Revlon Cosmetics (UAW). **Houseware & Appliances** - Cecilware (UAW, IBEW); Corningware (USW); Cutco Knives (USW); Pyrex (USW); Sealy Mattress (CWA). **Sweets** - Ghirardelli Chocolate (BCTGM); Almond Roca Chocolate (BCTGM); See's Candies (BCTGM). **Wine & Spirits** - Chateau Ste. Michelle Wine (IBT); St. Supéry Wine (UFW); Columbia Crest Chardonnay (UFW); Eagle Rare Bourbon (UAW); Four Roses Bourbon (UFCW); Basil Hayden (UAW, IBT); Jack Daniel's (UAW); Jim Beam (UFCW); Wild Turkey 101 (UAW); Sazerac (UFCW). **Games & Toys** - (All RWDSU/UFCW) - Barrel of Monkeys; Battleship; Candy Land; Chutes and

Ladders; Clue; Connect 4; Cranium; The Game of Life; Hasbro Toys; Hi Ho! Cherry-O; Hasbro Toys; Monopoly; Mouse Trap; Operation; Pictionary; Risk; Scrabble; Sorry; Taboo; Twister; Yahtzee; Baby Alive; Beyblade; Captain America; Easy Bake; G.I. Joe; Lite Brite; Marvel; Milton Bradley Toys; Mr. Potato Head; Nerf; Play-Doh; Spider-Man; Star Wars; Super Soaker; Tinkertoy; Tonka. **For Pets** - 9 Lives (UFCW); Alpo (BCTGM, UFCW); Beggin Strips (UFCW); Chew-eez (BCTGM, UFCW); Fancy Feast (BCTGM, UFCW); Fresh Step (UFCW); Friskies (UFCW); Litter Green (UFCW); Milk-Bone (BCTGM, UFCW); Nature's Recipe (UFCW); Purina (BCTGM, UFCW); Science Diet (UFCW); Snausages (UFCW); Skippy Dog Food (UFCW); Tidy Cats (UFCW).

REMAINING M.E.B.A. HOLIDAY PARTIES

Friday, December 6th - **Oakland** – At the hall after job call (around 1 pm).

Friday, December 6th - **Baltimore** – At the hall at 1 p.m.

Thursday, December 12th - **Headquarters** – 3 p.m. at M.E.B.A. HQ in D.C.

Friday, December 13th - **L.A.** – 1110 North Gaffey Street at Big Nick's Pizza at 1 p.m.

Friday, December 13th - **POID** – 12 noon at the Sodexo Dining Hall (26 Century Blvd. in Nashville).

Friday, December 13th - **Seattle** – At the hall at noon.

Friday, December 13th - **Houston** – At the hall at 1 pm.

Thursday, December 19th – **New Orleans** – At the hall beginning at 1 pm.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Monday, January 6 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, January 7 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, January 8 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, January 9 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, January 10 – Honolulu@1100.

-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----



The M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. M.E.B.A.'s expertise and proven track record of readiness, safety, and loyalty in answering America's call to action in times of both peace and war is unrivaled in the world. M.E.B.A. HQ – Phone: (202) 638-5355; mebahq@mebaunion.org. Visit us on Facebook. For publication and related inquiries (and to send photos & hot news tips) contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org. Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.