

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*



## M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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### **RIGHT TO WORK BILL SHOT DOWN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The New Hampshire state House of Representatives voted to indefinitely postpone a Right to Work bill supported by corporate interests to cripple unions. Senate Bill 61 previously passed the state Senate.

An Economic Policy Institute study concluded that workers in Right to Work states make \$5,000 less on average per year coupled with watered-down benefits and protections. In addition, such states have higher workplace and infant mortality rates, higher poverty rates and invest less in education.

"The New Hampshire AFL-CIO applauds the New Hampshire House of Representatives for voting to indefinitely postpone S.B. 61, harmful legislation that would have made the Granite State the first 'right to work' state in the Northeast," New Hampshire AFL-CIO President Glenn Brackett (IBEW) said in a statement. "Our labor unions have fought for more than a century to ensure that collective bargaining agreements in the Granite State consist of some of the best union wages, benefits, and jobsite protections in the country. We are extraordinarily grateful for the lawmakers who made the decision today to side with us and our workers."

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said, "While today's victory is a testament to the strength and will of working people, the reality is we should not have to fear that big corporations and anti-worker politicians are going to pass this legislation in New Hampshire—or anywhere else. That's why we need the PRO Act because it would eliminate right to work, putting it in the ash heap of history where it belongs. The days of playing defense are over."

### **MARINE ECONOMY OUTPACED U.S. ECONOMY in 2019**

America's marine economy contributed about \$397 billion to the nation's gross domestic product in 2019 and grew faster than the nation's economy as a whole, according to the most current results of the first official Marine Economy Satellite Account released by two Department of Commerce agencies.

"These statistics show how powerful America's blue economy is as a driver of jobs, innovation and economic growth," said Ben Friedman, acting NOAA administrator. "This information will assist our nation's economic recovery by helping policymakers, industry advocates, and organizations track and accelerate investments in target markets."

For these statistics, experts from NOAA and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) described 10 sectors representing businesses dependent on the nation's oceans, coasts and Great Lakes between the years 2014 and 2019. Marine-related gross domestic product grew 4.2% from 2018 to 2019, faster than the 2.2% growth of the total U.S. gross domestic product as measured in inflation-adjusted dollars. Businesses included in the report also generated a total of \$665.7 billion in sales and supported 2.4 million jobs in 2019.

The 10 sectors ranked by their sales are: Tourism and recreation, including recreational fishing (\$235 billion); National defense and public administration (\$180 billion); Offshore minerals (\$93 billion); Transportation and warehousing (\$64 billion); Commercial Ship and boat building (\$31 billion); Living resources, including commercial fishing and aquaculture (\$27 billion); Utilities (\$12 billion); Research and education (\$10.4 billion); Construction (\$7.0 billion); Professional and technical services (\$6.3 billion).

“These statistics are further proof that our waters are vital for America’s economy,” said Nicole LeBoeuf, acting director of NOAA’s National Ocean Service. “It is nearly impossible to go a single day without eating, wearing, or using items that come from or through our ports and coastal communities.”

#### **SEAPORTS LOOK FOR FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE**

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), which represents almost 150 seaports, is urging Congress to make an immediate and substantial investment in ports as part of an infrastructure plan. According to port industry leaders, investment is urgently needed to strengthen and modernize U.S. maritime infrastructure and ensure that American ports remain competitive worldwide.

AAPA President & CEO Chris Connor said, “Spending one dollar on maritime infrastructure returns two to three dollars to the national economy in terms of jobs, growth and productivity...Port funding yields a strong return on investment for American workers and will continue to help drive the nation’s recovery. Congress must act now.”

#### **WSF MARKS 70 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Six years after the end of World War II, the State of Washington began operating the country’s largest ferry system. Seven decades later, the Washington State Ferries is commemorating their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with a logo displayed on all vessels in the ferry fleet. A special anniversary video will also be shown on vessel screens throughout the year. In addition, many ferry customers are getting commemorative stickers.

“Since 1951, we’ve been proud to serve Washingtonians and visitors by operating the state’s marine highway system,” said Patty Rubstello, head of WSF. “The pandemic has made celebrations a challenge, so we wanted to make sure to take this special opportunity to thank our customers and frontline employees.”

## **CIVMARS HELP RESCUE MARINERS FROM SINKING SHIP IN GULF OF ADEN**

Civilian Mariners aboard the Military Sealift Command's USNS PATUXENT took part in the rescue of distressed mariners this week in the Gulf of Aden. The fleet replenishment oiler, part of the Navy's 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet, received notification from the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations watch center that the motor vessel FALCON LINE experienced engine failure and was taking on water.

PATUXENT raced to the scene at maximum speed and arrived before the vessel had been completely swallowed into Davy Jones' Locker. PATUXENT mariners shielded FALCON LINE crew from heavy winds and high seas so that the hapless mariners could board lifeboats. The MSC oiler took on all 15 FALCON LINE crewmembers and provided them with food, water and a medical screening. "As professional mariners, our forces have a duty to help those in need at sea," said Navy Capt. Michael O'Driscoll, commander of Task Force 53. "The sailors and civilian mariners aboard ships like PATUXENT have answered this call before, and they will continue to do so whenever possible."

## **YUKON CIVMARs EARN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Crew members of the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS YUKON have been awarded the Navy's Civilian Service Achievement Medal for their outstanding service during their deployment support of the USS NIMITZ aircraft carrier strike group. YUKON was deployed for a lengthy 302 days, with 261 days at-sea. While underway, the oiler conducted 86 replenishments at sea, delivering nearly 16 million gallons of diesel ship fuel, nearly 11 million gallons of JP5 aviation fuel, and 2673 pallets of frozen food, dry goods, equipment and mail.

M.E.B.A. Engineering Officers onboard the ship included C/E Roger Guillaume and 1<sup>st</sup> A/E Kyle Mathews.

According to YUKON Captain Dan Glazier, this deployment was exceptionally difficult for the crew. Not only was it longer than most, but due to COVID-19 restrictions and delays, receiving mail and supplies was challenging, and not just for items needed to support the mission. Crew members who ordered things such as medicines and comfort items from online companies such as Amazon, were delayed for weeks. The death of a crewmember during the holidays, further dampened the spirits of the crew. Glazier explained that recognition such as the Civilian Service Achievement Medal, means a lot to the crew, who he calls "Unsung Heroes."

YUKON is currently undergoing scheduled maintenance at the Vigor Industrial Shipyard in Portland, Oregon. Upon completion, the vessel will return to duty, providing logistics support to the U.S. Navy.

## **AUSTAL TO GIVE MSC EPF AUTONOMOUS CAPABILITIES**

Austal USA was awarded a \$44 million contract by the U.S. Navy this week to design and construct enhancements to the Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessel USNS APALACHICOLA as an autonomous prototype. EPFs are shallow-draft, all-aluminum, commercial-based catamarans in the Military Sealift Command fleet that are capable of intra-theater personnel and cargo transport.

The enhancements will allow APALACHICOLA to operate autonomously while retaining the capability for manned operation. The work will include installation of a perception and autonomy control suite, as well as several automation enhancements to the machinery plant improving hull, mechanical, and electrical reliability while reducing the amount of personnel required for operations and maintenance at sea.

## **LAST CHANCE TO JOIN THURSDAY'S FUNDRAISER & FUN AT CMES**

All systems are go for the upcoming M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF) Fundraiser and Disc Golf Tournament on Thursday, June 17. The Fundraiser benefits the Memorial Park at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the M.E.B.A. Good & Welfare Fund.

As you know, the Memorial was created to honor fallen seafarers who have delivered the goods and answered the call of this country since 1775. The Foundation supporting the Memorial is a section 501(c)(3) entity under Internal Revenue Service rules, so all donations are tax deductible. The G&W fund is used to help active and retired members and their families in times of need.

The event will include a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, the first annual Leroy Koehler Disc Golf Tournament, music and fun. There is a \$25 entry fee for the tournament which will begin at 11 a.m. The after-party and silent auction will take place at 4 p.m.

The 4MF is still accepting donations and hole sponsorships. To participate in the disc golf tournament or for further information, contact 4MF Chairman Bill Van Loo at (443) 676-6248 or [bvanloo@bvlworks.org](mailto:bvanloo@bvlworks.org)

## **WEST COAST CLOSED ON FRIDAY TO HONOR WARRIOR KING**

M.E.B.A.'s West Coast halls will be closed tomorrow (Friday, June 11) in observance of one of the great Hawaiian kings. The Honolulu hall will host its June Membership Meeting on Monday.

King Kamehameha I Day honors the chief of the Big Island district who, through conquest, united the eight major islands of Hawaii under his rule in the early 1800s. Legend says that Kamehameha was able to roll over the 7,000 pound volcanic Naha Stone when he was 14 years old, thus revealing that he would be the chosen one to unify Hawaii. A terrific surfer, he was said to be 7 feet tall weighing over 300 pounds.

Kamehameha became chief of the Big Island district in 1791 after vanquishing his island enemies in a series of bloody civil wars. His cause was aided in part by a timely eruption of Mt. Kilauea which covered a third of the enemy's forces in lava. This event was considered a sign that the fire goddess Pele favored him. As the Big Island ruler, Kamehameha, which translates to "The Lonely One," immediately began his systematic conquest of the Hawaiian Islands which fell one by one to his war machine. His renowned battle cry "Imua!" which means "Go forth!" is a shortened version of his extended battle call, "Imua e na pokii a inu I ka wai awaawa aohe hope e hoi mai ai" which is "Go forth my young brothers and drink of the bitter waters of battle for there is no turning back until we are victorious!"

However, his grand-scale designs to swallow up the island of Kauai were repeatedly thwarted thus temporarily stifling his overwhelming desire for domination. But in 1810, in the face of a massive invasion and certain defeat, the king of Kauai came groveling to Kamehameha and pledged his loyalty. This triggered the eight major islands of Hawaii to finally unite under one ruler – King Kamehameha I. Kamehameha was a wise and popular peacetime king who outlawed human sacrifice and had as many as 30 wives and 35 children. He helped rebuild battle-torn Hawaii while promoting trade and fostering the agriculture of what would become our 50<sup>th</sup> state. He continued to serve as king, ruling in peace until his death in 1819. All hail Kamehameha the Great!

**MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – ALL *REGULAR* MEETINGS ARE IN-PERSON**

*(All times are local)*

**Friday, June 11 – *King Kamehameha Day* (*West Coast Halls Closed*)**

**Monday, June 14 – Honolulu@1100**

**Monday, July 5 – *Independence Day Observed* (*All Halls Closed*)**

**Tuesday, July 6 – *Bloody Thursday* (*West Coast Halls Closed*) - Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315;**

**Wednesday, July 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle-Fife@1300; Online Headquarters “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No voting).**

**Thursday, July 8 – L.A.-San Pedro@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

**Friday, July 9 – 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 demonstrated 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](mailto: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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org). Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.*