

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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BIG SUPPORT FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS TRUMP BUDGET ZEROES THEM OUT

In the coming weeks and months, Congress will work to fund a series of popular food aid programs zeroed-out by the recently-released Trump budget. The President's budget was hard on overseas food assistance programs and, among other things, recommended that no money should be made available for the USAID-administered PL-480 Food for Peace program and the USDA's Food for Progress program which provide critical humanitarian aid.

P.L. 480 Title II grants fund emergency and development food aid programs authorized under Title II of the Food for Peace Act. Food for Progress helps provide U.S. agricultural commodities for developing countries and emerging democracies. Both programs serve as sources of cargo for U.S.-flag ships.

USA Maritime recently joined forces with a slew of agricultural, shipping, humanitarian and faith-based organizations trumpeting the importance of the Food for Progress program and the need for adequate funding. Support for Food for Peace funding is being pursued on a different track. USA Maritime is a coalition of maritime unions, associations and shipping companies – including the M.E.B.A. and American Maritime Congress – fighting for the U.S. Merchant Marine.

The organizations recently dispatched a letter to Agriculture Department Secretary Sonny Perdue calling for full funding of Food for Progress as well as the McGovern-Dole (MGD) International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program. MGD provides donations of U.S. agricultural products and financial and technical assistance for school feeding programs in the developing world.

The letter points out that both programs directly contribute to U.S. interests beyond the lifeline the programs extend to those in extreme poverty. It notes that the programs provide a boost to U.S. farmers, helps raise American stature and seeds the way for future trade opportunities. Each of the programs, as well as Food for Peace, have bipartisan support and their elimination, as recommended in the Trump budget, is unlikely. Last year's Presidential budget proposal calling for wide-scale program eliminations and reductions was largely ignored by Congress. Congressional sources have indicated that funding bills will more than likely drastically diverge from the blueprint presented by the President.

HOUSE T&I CHAIRMAN WON'T PURSUE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PRIVATIZATION

Congressman Bill Shuster (R-PA), Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, has acknowledged that he is dropping his bid to privatize the nation's air traffic control system, a plan endorsed by President Trump. The proposal would have involved transferring Federal Aviation Administration responsibilities to a private nonprofit organization affecting over 35,000 government employees. The Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS) – an M.E.B.A. affiliate – has been vocal in opposition to privatization. PASS represents 11,000 FAA and Defense Department workers throughout the air traffic control system.

The proposal was already facing an uphill battle as the Senate introduced an FAA funding bill devoid of the ATC privatization proposal.

Earlier this year, Rep. Shuster announced that he will retire at the end of the year when his term expires.

PASS President Mike Perrone was relieved that a plan that he had called “fundamentally flawed” is being shelved. He noted, “FAA employees, millions of airline passengers, and the aviation industry as a whole, deserve bipartisan solutions when crafting ways to reform and improve the agency. PASS is proud to have fought alongside our allies for years against dangerous efforts to privatize the air traffic control system. We look forward to working together with lawmakers from either party to find real solutions to securing the long-term and stable funding needed to continue the modernization of the largest, safest and most complex aviation system in the world.”

HOUSTON HALL CLOSED TOMORROW

M.E.B.A.'s Union hall in Houston will be closed tomorrow, Friday, March 2nd for Texas Independence Day. Texas declared its independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836 as the Alamo was being laid siege to by the Mexican army. It fell four days later. It wasn't until April of that year when Sam Houston's 910-man army defeated Mexican General Santa Anna in a surprise attack at the San Jacinto River that Texans would turn the tide. Soon after, Sam Houston was sworn in as President of the Republic of Texas. Various skirmishes with the Mexicans continued until a truce was finally signed in June 1843. Texas was actually an independent nation for several years until December of 1845 when President James Polk signed an annexation act allowing Texas to join the union.

1st A/Es NEEDED FOR CENTRAL GULF/WATERMAN JOBS

Seabulk Fleet Mgmt. is currently accepting resumes for 1st A/Es for future positions on Central Gulf Line and Waterman vessels.

Please include any PC/TC, Heavy Lift or Crane experience. A current Security Clearance is also a bonus. Please forward resumes to pmcgee@ckor.com & scopeland@ckor.com.

MSC VESSEL CREW HELPS RECOVER WWII PILOT'S REMAINS

Last week, a recovery team aboard Military Sealift Command's USNS SALVOR completed an excavation of multiple aircraft losses shot down in 1944 near Ngerekebesang Island, Republic of Palau. The remains of a pilot were recovered. An underwater recovery team, comprised of U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force service members and Department of Defense civilians, spent weeks excavating the area. They used a variety of archeological tools and meticulously inspecting the bottom sediment in their search and recovery of the missing personnel from World War II.

The USNS SALVOR is a rescue and salvage ship and was the ideal platform to support the recovery mission. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC's Civilian Mariner fleet.

The SALVOR embarked the diving team at Guam and the other mission personnel at Palau. Once the team was onboard, the SALVOR got underway to various recovery sites until they reached the excavation area where the pilot was recovered. "We did a four-point moor on top of the aircraft and then it really got busy," said Capt. Mike Flanagan. "The aircraft had been untouched for about 74 years. It's been a long time since I've seen a military detachment working this hard for this long, seven days a week."

Excavation was the primary duty of the underwater team, but MSC mariners were also at hand assisting. In addition to operating the cranes that moved lift baskets filled with sediment, some crew members assisted sifting through sand while looking for any evidence. The mariners were trained by the embarked archeologist on how to sift through the sand.

The United States remains committed to recovery of missing personnel from World War II to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing personnel to their families and the nation.

SIGN UP FOR M.E.B.A. VACATION PLAN DIRECT DEPOSIT

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Vacation Plan Direct Deposit that will help save them time and ease Plans processing costs. Authorization forms are available from the Plans Office, Plans Outport Offices and at the Plans' website – www.mebaplans.org (Forms & Documents, Vacation Plan Forms). Complete details are available on the Plans' site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or vacation@mebaplans.org for more info.

SUPPORT GOOD JOBS WHILE WATCHING THE OSCARS

Tinseltown's biggest night is on Sunday with the broadcast of the 90th Academy Awards. The Oscars are a highly unionized event, from the people they honor – Hollywood films are made by thousands of union members – to the very show itself. In honor of Hollywood, Labor 411 narrowed down a few of their favorite brands of movie-watching grub including candy, sodas and popcorn, all of which are made by companies who treat their workers fairly. Enjoy Oscar night and help snack your way to a stronger America!

Sodas – Coke; Dr. Pepper; Pepsi; Sprite; Mountain Dew. **Popcorn** - Act II Popcorn; Jiffy Pop; Orville Redenbacher; Crunch N' Munch. **Candy** - Hershey's Milk Chocolate Bars; Butterfinger; Baby Ruth; Red Vines; Jelly Belly; Tootsie Rolls. (See many more choices at www.Labor411.org).

As a bonus, product tie-ins to this year's eight Best Picture nominees follow. This list of union-made consumer products was paired with its most fitting Best Picture nominee:

Call Me By Your Name - Banquet Frozen Meals (Armie Hammer stays in with frozen chicken alfredo when he misses the Northern Italian countryside); **Darkest Hour** - Minute Maid (Why wait an hour? We know, we know...); **Dunkirk** - Coppertone sport sunscreen (Don't hit the beach without it); **Get Out** - Alta Dena (Enjoy a chilled glass of milk and try not to think about that chilling Allison Williams scene); **Lady Bird** – Trojan (Let's hope Saoirse Ronan and Timothee Chalamet wore union-made protection); **Phantom Thread** - Royal Apparel (For the knighted Daniel Day Lewis for playing the most glorious game of dress up). **The Post** - Los Angeles Times subscription (Support the newly

unionized paper! Everyone's doing it! Even Meryl and Tom!); **The Shape of Water** - Crystal Springs (Spoiler alert: It's usually shaped like a bottle!); **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri** - Hampton Shoe & American Made Work Boots (The only American-made work boots made in the USA! They're based in St. Louis, just outside Ebbing, Missouri).

COAST GUARD POLICY LETTER ON INOPERABLE BALLAST WATER SYSTEMS

The Coast Guard issued a policy letter concerning potential courses of action for when U.S.-bound experience an inoperable ballast water management (BWM) system.

The policy letter doesn't address situations where inoperable BWMs result from emergency situations caused by weather, vessel casualty, flooding, etc. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/BWMletter> to view the policy letter.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, March 5 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, March 6 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, March 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, March 8 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, March 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 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 contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org