

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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M.E.B.A. CLOSED MAY 29 FOR MEMORIAL DAY

All M.E.B.A. port offices, the M.E.B.A. Benefit Plans, and M.E.B.A. Headquarters will be closed on Monday, May 29th for Memorial Day. Take a moment to remember and honor those who died for our freedom. The National Moment of Remembrance, established by Congress, asks Americans wherever they are on Memorial Day at 3 p.m. local time to pause for a minute of silence in an act of national unity and reflection. You could also fly the American flag at half-staff until noon, fly the POW/MIA flag (and/or Merchant Marine flag) along with the American flag, and perhaps ring a bell eight times to signify the moment.

MSP, FOOD AID, PORTS GET SHORT SHRIFT IN TRUMP BUDGET

The release of President Donald Trump's \$4.1 trillion Fiscal Year 2018 budget underfunds a slew of important programs and projects for seaports and the maritime industry. Though the M.E.B.A. and industry partners have worked hard to get a more reasonable authorization level for the Maritime Security Program (which resulted in a \$300 million appropriation for MSP in FY '17), the budget only recommends \$210 million for FY '18.

However, the President's budget is only a starting point for program funding and will be vigorously debated by lawmakers before final funding figures are put in place. M.E.B.A.'s legislative team will be working hard to ensure that MSP receives the higher (authorized) level of funding in FY '18.

In addition, the President's budget does no favors for food aid. It zeroes out the Title II PL-480 Food for Peace program which has provided another source of cargoes for U.S.-flag ships. The Export-Import Bank is another important element for the U.S.-flag industry and shipping interests were recently heartened when the President nominated two new members to the Bank Board that, if confirmed, would allow the Bank to field a quorum and restore Ex-Im to full operational status. However, in his budget, the President recommends \$10 million in administrative cuts for the Bank and would cancel \$165 million of the Bank's Tied Aid Fund which provides financing of public-sector capital projects in developing countries.

Though the budget recommends a \$6.5 billion funding jump for the U.S. Navy over last year's numbers, naval shipbuilding didn't receive the major boost that some expected. The funding is a boon for maintenance of the existing air and sea fleet but reduces newbuild money over last year's budget.

Ports were unenthused that the budget eliminates the Transportation Department's TIGER grants program which aids infrastructure projects. Big cuts to the Homeland Security Department's Port security grant program were also questioned by seaport interests. The new budget follows through on the President's pledge to sap funding from the Environmental Protection Agency. The American Association of Port Authorities pointed out that EPA cuts will hinder port efforts to invest in clean diesel equipment and reduction strategies. However, AAPA pointed out that they are fully onboard with the President's recently announced initiative to support \$1 trillion in infrastructure. Over the next decade, AAPA is calling for \$66 billion in federal funds for port-related infrastructure to ensure U.S. job creation, economic growth, safe and secure ports and tax fairness. On the waterside, AAPA recommends the investment of about \$34 billion to maintain and modernize deep-draft shipping channels, and \$32 billion to build vital road and rail connections to ports and improve port facility infrastructure.

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (ITD) President Ed Wytkind was critical of the cuts the budget proposals for transportation programs. He said the budget "would idle major infrastructure upgrades, saddle businesses with an aging and ineffective freight and passenger network and ignore the needs of weary commuters and travelers." He called for the President to work with Congress "to fully fund a major expansion in infrastructure spending that puts millions to work."

INDUSTRY SALUTED BY DOT, TRANSCOM LEADERS ON MARITIME DAY

A slew of high-profile speakers including new Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao lauded the industry on Monday for the Washington D.C. Maritime Day observance. In 1933, Congress selected May 22nd as Maritime Day to honor mariners who have served our nation in times of peace and in war. The day is also a tribute to the maritime industry as a whole and its critical importance to our economy and national security. May 22nd marks the date in 1819 that the American steamship SAVANNAH left Savannah, Georgia, on what was the first transoceanic voyage under steam power.

Secretary Chao, who has spoken at numerous Maritime Day gatherings, was the featured speaker at the national observance held at the Department of Transportation. She hailed the industry's rich heritage and stressed that mariners have played key roles in every conflict on behalf of our nation. She added that, in addition, mariner contributions in humanitarian crises and to our economy in general have solidified their "history of heroism."

USTRANSCOM Commander General Darren McDew has been outspoken on behalf of our industry and heaped more praise upon the men and women of the Merchant Marine at the observance. He cited the resolve of the Merchant Marine in helping to turn the tide against the enemy in World War II and pointed out that we will likely need such amazing resolve for our future challenges. The General has been a staunch advocate of making the U.S.-flag fleet more robust and has testified to that end many times before Congress.

The D.C. ceremony also produced a poignant and memorable moment when six WWII Merchant Marine veterans in attendance were honored for their service. Those mariners included Dave Yoho, Morris Harvey, Charles A. Mills, Morton Schlanger, Eugene Barner and Bob Weagant II. In addition, Sheila Sova and Laura Riddle represented their fathers who were two more of the brave mariners who helped our country persevere in World War II. They all received a deserved standing ovation. In addition, Schlanger was presented with overdue WWII medals by MarAd.

The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) issued a statement saying that “without the contributions of mariners and port workers, our economy could not function and our military would not be nearly as strong.” TTD President Ed Wytkind pointed out that his member unions – which include the M.E.B.A. – “stand firm in our commitment to fight for policies and programs that protect these workers and secure the port and maritime industries as hubs for good, middle-class jobs.”

WHITE HOUSE MARITIME DAY STATEMENT

As is the practice each year, the President of the United States issues a Maritime Day proclamation hailing mariners for the exceptional role they play in keeping the nation’s economy moving and for supporting our national defense. President Trump followed suit and issued a statement laudatory of our nation’s Fourth Arm of Defense:

“On National Maritime Day, we recognize the important role the United States Merchant Marine plays in supporting our commerce and national security. We honor the proud history of our merchant mariners and their important contributions in strengthening our economy. Americans have long looked to the sea as a source of safety and well-being. Bounded by two oceans and the Gulf of Mexico, and crisscrossed by inland waterways, America was destined to be a maritime nation. Our fledgling Republic expanded and became stronger, as our Nation's growing Merchant Marine connected the States and cemented ties among our new allies.

Today, the men and women who crew ships remain essential to our Nation's prosperity and security. Those in the maritime industry, including merchant mariners, promote our economic growth, facilitating the export of more than \$475 billion in goods just last year and sustaining our critical defense industrial base. Merchant mariners also actively protect our homeland, serving as our eyes and ears on the seas. They serve with distinction and courage, heading into war zones, and too often sacrificing their own lives for our protection.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day," to commemorate the first transoceanic voyage by a steamship, in 1819 by the S.S. Savannah. By this resolution, the Congress has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2017, as National Maritime Day. I call upon the people of the United States to mark this observance and to display the flag of the United States at their homes and in their communities. I also request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.”

100 YEARS OF UNREPS

The U.S. Navy announced that this month marks the 100th anniversary of their use of underway replenishment vessels to resupply Navy ships at sea. Military Sealift Command UNREPS allow Navy and allied ships to be resupplied with fuel, food and stores without pulling into port. M.E.B.A. proudly represents the engineers in the MSC's Civilian Mariner fleet, the backbone of at-sea Navy missions around the globe.

"UNREPS keep the Navy going," said USNS ARCTIC First Officer Jamie Gleber. "If a Navy ship had to pull into port every time it needed supplies, that ship would be taken out of the game. Performing an UNREP is a very challenging undertaking because you are dealing with two very large

and heavy ships which weigh anywhere from 20,000 tons to upwards of hundreds of thousands of tons which are operating within 200 feet of each other, and sailing between 12 to 28 knots," said Gleber. "So an UNREP is inherently an auspicious situation."

Members of the UNREP station teams from the receiving ship use a bolt-action rifle, which has been modified to launch a large plastic projectile with a string attached to the other ship. The string is used to pull the telephone and distance line (T&D line), fueling hose heaving lines and stores cables from one ship to another. The T&D line is used by each ship's bridge team to monitor the distance between the two ships throughout the UNREP. The T&D line also contains a sound powered phone line, which is used for constant communications between the two ships. Once the stores and/or fuel have been delivered, MSC vessels perform emergency breakaway drills, which involves retrieving hoses, cables and lines in a very rapid fashion and quickly disengaging from the "customer ship".

LABOR 411 - FIRE UP THE GRILL FOR MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day, we remember the individuals who gave their lives defending our country and recognize the veterans and heroes who are in service today. Since Memorial Day is also the unofficial kickoff of summer, plenty of people will be firing up the grill and enjoying the warm weather. Remember to use union-made supplies on Memorial Day and all summer long: **Hot Dogs** - Ball Park; Butterball; Hebrew National; Hormel; Oscar Meyer. **Coolers** – Rubbermaid. **Ice Cream** – Breyers; Creamland; Galliker's; Gandy's; Good Humor; Oberweis; Perry's; Tillamook. **Sunscreen** - Bain de Soleil; Coppertone; **Snacks** - Cheez-It; Doritos; Fig Newtons; Lay's Potato Chips; Oreos; Rold Gold Pretzels; Sun Chips; Wheat Thins; **Hats** - AFL-CIO Union Made Gear; All American Clothing Co.; All USA Clothing; Bayside; **Beverages** - More than 250 choices of union made beer (See Labor 411 for a list).

DRBA MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Delaware River & Bay Authority has multiple job opportunities in their marine department that could be a good fit for you. They have six open positions, all located in Cape May, NJ. First off, they are looking for a Marine Mechanic 1st Class. The job involves diagnosing and making necessary repairs to any machinery or mechanical equipment onboard Authority vessels, work boat, and ashore. The closing date for applications is June 21.

DRBA also needs a Senior Manager, Marine Mechanics who serves as the independent leader of the Marine Mechanics department for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. The person is responsible for determining priorities for the department as well as a clear action plan to deliver on those priorities. The closing date is May 29.

An Assistant Port Engineer is also needed. This position is responsible for assisting the Port Engineer in project planning, and management and maintenance of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry fleet. The closing date is May 30.

A Lead Mechanic is another position in need of a qualified member. The job requires hands-on repairs to all machinery or mechanical equipment on board Authority vessels. The closing date is June 1.

There is an opening for a Mechanic Assistant for the night shift. They will perform any and all duties assigned by the Port Engineer, Senior Manager Marine Mechanics or Marine Mechanics Manager. The closing date is June 21. Finally, DRBA is looking for an Oiler who has the responsibility of overseeing

vessel equipment operation, making log entries and reporting problems to the Chief Engineer. The closing date is June 17.

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions please complete the online application at www.drba.net. You should be prepared to attach a current resume when you complete the application process online.

6-WEEK PAID INTERNSHIP WITH SEATTLE-AREA LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

Do you know someone interested in working for social change? “Union Summer” is a paid (\$15/hour) summer internship program for people interested in getting involved in the labor movement. Union Summer participants will spend six weeks, from June 20 to July 29, working full-time and hands-on with different campaigns - talking to the community, marching for justice, and gaining first-hand experience in the movement. The positions are based in and around Seattle, but campaigns may take place throughout the region. To apply, go to <http://bit.ly/UnionSummerApplication>

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, Vacation). Complete details are available on the Plans’ site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or vacation@mebaplans.org for more info.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

Friday, June 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