

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
The Official Union Newsletter – "The Word to the Wise"
Number 45 – November 9, 2023



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CAPE ORLANDO WAYLAID BY GAZA WAR PROTESTERS

A large assembly of rowdy activists protesting U.S. military aid to Israel and calling for a Gaza War cease fire delayed the departure of the Ready Reserve Force vessel CAPE ORLANDO by nine hours on Friday in the Port of Oakland. Demonstrators believed the vessel was delivering supplies to supplement Israel's ongoing military operations against Hamas in the Gaza Strip after the Hamas terrorist attacks and Israeli response have created turmoil and devastation across the region. Thousands of Israeli and Palestinian civilians have been killed since the war began. Hamas has kidnapped hundreds of civilians, including Americans, and are holding them hostage. The demonstration was orchestrated by the Bay Area Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC) in conjunction with various local organizations. According to an AROC representative, they believed the CAPE ORLANDO was bringing military equipment to Israel.

The CAPE ORLANDO is a Ready Reserve Force vessel managed by Patriot Contract Services and crewed with M.E.B.A. Engine Officers.

The protest began around 8:30 am on Friday away from the ship - but within an hour some of the protesters breached a fence surrounding the pier by the vessel. Coast Guard watchstanders said protesters began tampering with mooring lines while some climbed the vessel's ladder.

Coast Guard crews in 45-foot response boats were deployed, and along with Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) members and local law enforcement, began removing the individuals from the facility around 10 a.m. After local law enforcement moved protesters away from the ORLANDO, three people remained affixed to the vessel's pilot ladder. Those people were then removed and may potentially face charges for federal violations.

The ORLANDO then sailed to the Port of Tacoma, Washington where it was met on Monday by hundreds of demonstrators. A contingent of kayakers and other boaters protested waterside and were monitored by the Coast Guard. Steady rain pelted protesters during the rally but no ugly incidents were reported and the vessel departed on schedule.

STRIKING FAMILIES ACCESS UNION PLUS MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) members are returning to work after a tentative agreement was reached with Hollywood moguls this week. Besides actors, those members serve as announcers, broadcast journalists, dancers, DJs, news writers, news editors, program hosts, puppeteers, recording artists, singers, stunt performers, voiceover artists and other media professionals. The strike began in July and 160,000 SAG-AFTRA members have walked the line for 118 days, a great sacrifice for so many who can ill-afford to support their families without work.

But Union Plus benefits have proved valuable for SAG-AFTRA members as well as many others who are sending a message to corporations to give them a fair contract.

SAG-AFTRA members Carolyn Chiodini-Cable and Erin H. are both dedicated to their craft, and to their union. When they went on strike in July, Erin's husband, Kevin, was already out of work as an International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) member who relied on the work of the Writers Guild of America (WGA), who went on strike in May. While they awaited a fair contract settlement to their strike, both Carolyn and Erin have felt fortunate to access a unique benefit of their Union Plus mortgages – the Union Plus Mortgage Assistance Program.

Erin, who just moved into a new house with her family last summer, said, "I remembered we had strike protection. We are insanely grateful for the Union Plus Mortgage Assistance Program. It really saved our butts." Carolyn said, "We knew Union Plus would have our back. We're grateful that Union Plus has given us a helping hand as we stay Union Strong. I can't recommend them enough."

The Union Plus Mortgage Assistance Program provides interest-free loans and grants to eligible union members to help them make their mortgage payments in the event they become disabled, unemployed, locked out, or go on strike.

Union Plus programs are also available to M.E.B.A. members, applicants, retirees and our affiliates. The M.E.B.A. is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to auto services discounts.

HISTORIC HONORS FOR U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ON VETERANS DAY

World War II mariners will be on hand on Saturday to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor the U.S. Merchant Marine on Veterans Day. The official Veterans Day falls on Saturday (11/11) but the Federal holiday is being observed tomorrow (Friday). The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs invited members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) to take part in the ceremony and M.E.B.A. representatives will be on hand at the event.

The wreath laying ceremony will be the first time in history that the U.S. Merchant Marine will be honored on Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery during one of our Nation's most enduring displays of respect for all U.S. veterans.

At the wreath laying ceremony, U.S. Merchant Marine veterans from World War II will include Pete Kurkimilis, Charles Mills, Howard Pfeifer, and David Yoho. Jack Kammerer, Executive Director of the U.S. Maritime Administration, will also lay a wreath during the ceremony.

AMMV is a non-profit organization serving all U.S. Merchant Marine veterans. Capt. DiMattia, president of AMMV, said, “America honors all U.S. merchant mariners who served our Nation in times of peace and war, including military sealift support during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and six Expeditionary Operations in the Middle East and Northeast Africa. Laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day this year is a historic first for the Merchant Marine.”

\$653 MILLION IN PORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Maritime Administration (MarAd) announced the award of over \$653 million to fund 41 port improvement projects across the nation under the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). The port improvement projects they announced are meant to strengthen supply chain reliability, create workforce development opportunities, speed up the movement of goods, and improve the safety, reliability and resilience of ports. These investments are part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

“Everything from the food we eat to the cars we drive to the lumber and steel used to build our homes passes through America's ports, making them some of the most critical links in our nation’s supply chain,” said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. “These investments will help expand capacity and speed up the movement of goods through our ports, contributing to cleaner air and more good-paying jobs as we go.”

The PIDP improves port and related freight infrastructure to meet the nation’s freight transportation needs. The program provides planning support, capital funding, and project management assistance to improve capacity and efficiency of ports in both urban and rural areas. Awards announced today include more than \$172.8 million for 26 small ports to continue to improve and expand their capacity to move freight reliably and efficiently, thereby boosting local and regional economies while protecting surrounding communities from air pollution.

“Modernizing the nation’s port infrastructure is vital to the reinforcement of America’s multimodal system for transporting goods. The advantages of cargo movement on water extend well beyond the maritime domain,” said Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips.

Projects were selected based on their ability to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods, as well as on how well they would improve port resilience.

ADVANCED IGF CODE ENDORSEMENT – LNG FUEL TRANSFERS

For those members requiring LNG fuel transfers as part of their Advanced IGF code endorsement:

Pasha conducts fuel transfers in Long Beach California every Thursday afternoon. Members interested in getting one or more of the three fuel transfers required by the National Maritime Center for the Advanced endorsement should respectfully contact M.E.B.A. Port Engineer Joseph.Walla@pashanet.com

USE M.E.B.A. WEBSITE DUES PAYMENT OPTION TO IRON OUT LWOP/VACATION DUES LAPSES

Some M.E.B.A. bargaining unit members pay dues by automatic Dues Check-Off (DCO). But when DCO members take vacation or (in the case of the Government fleet) Leave without Pay (LWOP),

there are lapses in payroll where dues aren't automatically submitted. Those members can iron out the imbalance from this link: www.mebaunion.org/pay-your-dues/ Select the bargaining unit in the "Check Off, Catch-Up" section and make sure you remain a member in good standing.

A "Vacation Pay" option is also available. This is useful for port Engineers and Union officials who can make these payments online. Many members and applicants think that paying online is the most efficient and advantageous manner to remain in good standing.

APPLICANTS SEEKING MEMBERSHIP MUST FORWARD DOCS BY 11/30

Qualified applicants trying to make membership in December must make sure they provide Headquarters with required documentation to ensure their inclusion on the next District Investigating Committee (DIC) report. The DIC meets twice a year to review applicants for membership and will issue a report in late November to be voted upon by members during the regular December membership meetings (December 4-8).

To make membership, an applicant needs the required sailing days or specified years of employment with a particular bargaining unit, must be current with service charges and must complete other necessary requirements which may include an initiation fee and/or letters of recommendation.

Applicants should know that they are responsible for providing their local Union hall/Headquarters with the documentation demonstrating their fulfillment of the application requirements. Once they submit the requisite amount of sea time (or documented years of service) to Headquarters and have otherwise fulfilled the needed requirements as stated in the application packet they signed, they may be eligible for membership. Applicants who have fulfilled the necessary requirements should forward their information to Headquarters.

Applicants have been mailed letters from HQ referencing the missing requirements needed for that applicant to make membership. Referenced documents must be submitted to HQ no later than 11/30 if you wish to be considered for membership during this review period. If you have questions about your status, you can contact the Membership Department at membership@mebaunion.org. All questions about service charge payments should be directed to the M.E.B.A. Accounting Department at accounting@mebaunion.org. Qualified applicants who fail to make the deadline will have to wait another six months – until the June 2024 report – to make membership.

M.E.B.A. HALLS AND OFFICES CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day falls on Saturday but will be observed tomorrow – Friday, Nov. 10 and all M.E.B.A. halls and offices will be closed. The Honolulu Union hall will host its regular membership meeting on Monday.

Veterans Day marks the anniversary of the agreement that ended World War I in 1918. Originally known as Armistice Day, it is now celebrated as a day to commemorate all veterans in the U.S. including Merchant Marine veterans. It is observed as Remembrance Day in the Commonwealth nations, and as Armistice Day in France and Belgium. Birmingham, AL hosted the very first Veterans Day parade in 1947 and it continues today as an annual tradition. Each year on November 11th (Saturday this year) right at 11 a.m. (11/11 at 11), a wreath-laying ceremony is held in the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This will be the 70th annual National Veterans Day Observance.

NEXT MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS *(All times are local)*

Monday, November 13 – Honolulu@1100.

Monday, December 4 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Tuesday, December 5 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, December 6 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org

Thursday, December 7 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, December 8 – Honolulu@1100

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



***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.***

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. 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.