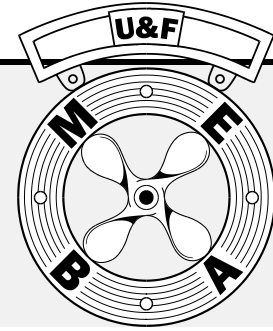


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

APRIL 2018



The Maritime Security Program will enjoy full funding for the rest of Fiscal Year '18 under the massive \$1.3 trillion Omnibus spending bill recently signed into law. The President's budget had recommended only \$214 million for MSP. But bipartisan support for the program that ensures a U.S.-flag presence in the international trades led Congressional Members to support the appropriate \$300 million MSP funding level.

In addition, Food for Peace is funded at \$1.7 billion in the Omnibus - the President had recommended no food aid funding in his budget proposal. Food for Peace helps feed starving Third World nations while providing critical support to U.S. shipping and American farmers.

Also, the spending bill provides \$300 million for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel program. This money is for design and construction of training school ships for the state maritime academies. In addition to their function as training vessels for cadets, the ships would also be used to provide humanitarian and disaster relief as needed. SUNY Maritime, is expected to be first in line for a new training ship. SUNY's EMPIRE STATE VI is 57-years old. SUNY believes the new vessel, to be built in an as-yet undetermined U.S. shipyard, will be delivered in time for their 2022 summer sea term.

Several days before the bill was signed, a cross-section of maritime industry representatives, including M.E.B.A. and AMC, turned out in force on Capitol Hill to broadcast the importance of U.S. shipping and solicit support for crucial statutes and programs – many of which were satisfactorily addressed in the Omnibus. This year's Maritime Congressional Sail-In was especially timely as it was conducted while Congress was putting together the massive spending bill.

M.E.B.A. and AMC officials, staffers and an M.E.B.A. retiree (Patrick Bevers) were peppered throughout 26 Sail-In groups (95 participants) that visited 169 Senate and House Members from both sides of the aisle. The Sail-In helps solidify support with lawmakers and reminds Congress about the importance of our industry to the economy and national security. M.E.B.A. officials participating included President Marshall Ainley, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram and Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan.