

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



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

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

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### **MERCHANT MARINE HIGHLIGHTED IN DC V-J DAY OBSERVANCE**

13 World War II veterans including two merchant mariners took part in a Washington DC observance this week commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V-J Day (Sept. 2, 1945), the date of Imperial Japan's surrender bringing the war to an end. Taking place at the World War II Memorial, centrally located between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, the ceremony highlighted the service and sacrifice made by the men and women overseas and on the Homefront during a war that claimed over 70 million lives worldwide.

WWII merchant mariner Dave Yoho was the keynote speaker at the event and he and the other 12 veterans participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial's Freedom Wall honoring the 16 million Americans who wore the uniform in World War II and the more than 400,000 who gave their lives in service. James Quinn was another WWII merchant mariner in attendance. He signed up with NMU at the age of 16 and made numerous voyages in support of the North Africa campaign. The 97-year-old Quinn and Yoho were the "babies of the bunch," as several of the veterans in attendance were well over 100 years old.

At 15-years-old, Yoho got rejected by the Navy when he tried to join the war effort in 1944, but the U.S. Maritime Service didn't look too closely when he presented them with a falsified birth certificate. After completing training at Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn, NY, he hopped onboard a T-2 tanker and spent 13 months delivering the goods through dangerous waters in the South Pacific.

The event was sponsored by the National Park Service and the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, and M.E.B.A. and AMC representatives were on hand at the Tuesday afternoon ceremony soaking up the adulation heaped upon the U.S. Merchant Marine.

During his passionate and emotional remarks, Yoho highlighted the bravery and vital role of the Merchant Marine – "the Fourth Arm of Defense" as termed by President Franklin Roosevelt - during the war. Many attendees may have learned something new when he spoke about the dreaded Murmansk Run, which was equated to a 'gauntlet of death.' During the war, merchant mariners kept the supply lines open to the allied Soviet Union disrupting the Nazi chokehold, by their constant

Arctic convoy resupply missions through dangerous waters to the ports of Murmansk and Archangelsk.

Yoho highlighted the ill-fated PQ-17 convoy that left Reykjavik, Iceland with 35 merchant ships (22 of them American), under the protection of 21 naval escorts. After the inexplicable military decision to recall the naval escorts, German aircraft and U-boats pounced and sunk 24 cargo ships sending 120 mariners down to Davy Jones' locker. During the war, the U.S. Merchant Marine suffered the highest mortality rate out of any service – 1 in 26. In the first 7 months of the war, over 300 allied ships were sunk off the east coast of the U.S.

Yoho urged attendees to walk the grounds of the memorial, learn about the sacrifices made, take the precious time the veterans have left to talk to them and learn their stories – and pass it on to future generations.

“Tell them about us,” he said. “Read on to find out more about us,” he implored. “And remember, we gave up our yesterdays for your – and their - tomorrows.”

You can see the ceremony on the Friends of the National WWII Memorial's Facebook page at: [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=1569711970658533](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1569711970658533)

### **UNION REACHES TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH MAERSK, E-SHIPS, M-SHIPS**

Following summer negotiations that concluded earlier this week, the Union reached an 8-year tentative agreement with Maersk Line Ltd on three contracts (MLL, E-Ships, and M-Ships) covering 19 vessels.

As per the contracts, the tentative agreements will be put to a ratification vote at next week's membership meetings across the country.

The new agreements secure wage and benefit increases, improvements in stand-by duty and compensation for unlicensed work, and significant MPB increases, among other contract provisions.

The M.E.B.A. negotiating team was led by Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan, with contributions from Headquarters Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher. Input was delivered by bargaining unit members and rank-and-file participating in negotiations included Dan Brown, Dan Davis, Todd Bilodeau, Kevin Bennett, Jeremiah Taylor and James Meyers.

The agreements will be available for review by members and applicants in good standing at the M.E.B.A. Union halls.

### **NEW TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. OCEAN (SEACOR/WATERMAN)**

M.E.B.A. has secured new three-year Collective Bargaining Agreements with U.S. Ocean (Seacor/Waterman). The tentative agreements cover both licensed engineers for the Pure Car/Truck Carriers (PC/TCs) GREEN BAY, GREEN DELTA, GREEN OCEAN, GREEN WAVE, as well as engineers onboard the heavy-lift vessels OCEAN GIANT and OCEAN GLADIATOR. The contracts will be put to a ratification vote before the membership at next week's meetings.

Among other items, the new agreements bring in significant wage and wage-related item increases, OT, duty pay and MPB improvements, medical, training and JEC bumps and establishment of premium pay, along with other beneficial contract provisions.

The M.E.B.A. negotiating team was led by Gulf Coast Vice President Adam Smith, along with Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway and Headquarters Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher. Input was delivered by sailing members and rank-and-file participating in negotiations included Kevin Schultz, Jack Schaffield and Brian Kane.

The agreements will be available for review by members and applicants in good standing at the M.E.B.A. Union halls.

### **MORE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES STRIPPED OF UNION RIGHTS**

The White House has expanded its push to dismantle federal labor rights, ordering additional agencies to dissolve their collective bargaining agreements with unions. Through a new executive order signed last week, the President directed more agencies and subcomponents to end their labor contracts, broadening an already sweeping list of entities where union rights have been eliminated. According to the order, the administration claims the cancellations are necessary “to enhance the national security of the United States.”

This latest action builds on Trump’s March 27 directive, which invoked a little-used provision of the 1978 Civil Service Reform Act. That statute gives presidents authority to suspend collective bargaining in situations tied to national security. The White House argued the newly added agencies fit that criteria.

Entities now subject to the ban include NASA; the U.S. Agency for Global Media; the National Weather Service and the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (both under NOAA); the Bureau of Reclamation’s hydropower program; and the Patent and Trademark Office’s commissioner of patents office. These additions join a growing roster of federal workers stripped of their basic rights to collective bargaining - almost 450,000 Federal employees to date.

The M.E.B.A. is already pursuing legal action on behalf of our members in the Military Sealift Command and Army Corps fleets who were impacted by the March order. We will continue to fight aggressively to defend our members and protect the fundamental union rights of the federal workforce.

### **REPORT SAYS AMMONIA BECOMING MORE VIABLE AS FUEL OPTION**

Assurance and risk management provider DNV has issued a new report finding that ammonia is moving from theory to reality as a marine fuel but still faces hurdles of toxicity, cost, and limited supply.

The report outlines a two-phase path: first, launch a small pioneering fleet with limited ports and trained crews; then, expand globally with large-scale production, infrastructure, and IMO regulations. To scale up, they say the industry needs prescriptive rules, more production, standardized port safety, and crew training.

The new report, “Ammonia in Shipping: Tracing the Emergence of a New Fuel,” addresses the key barriers to the uptake of ammonia and outlines a pathway for its widespread adoption in shipping. The M.E.B.A. does not believe ammonia should ever be used as fuel on merchant vessels.

You can see the full report [here](#).

### **RED SEA INCIDENTS PROMPT FOCUS ON CARE FOR CREWS**

Recent attacks in the Red Sea have prompted renewed calls for stronger leadership and greater care for the mental wellbeing of seafarers. Following the latest attacks this year which resulted in the tragic deaths of crewmembers, mental health organizations urged the maritime industry to address the psychological risks faced by crews operating in high-threat regions.

Marinos Kokkinis, Managing Director of OneCare Group, said the incident has laid bare the imbalance between operational planning and human welfare. “Seafarers are not combatants. They are civilians performing a vital professional role and should never be expected to operate under the kind of extreme threat typically associated with armed conflict. We need to ensure that the human cost is at the forefront of operators’ minds, rather than an afterthought when it comes to these serious safety risks.”

The Cyprus-based OneCare Group focuses on ways to improve Seafarers’ health, well-being & eLearning. The global entity is calling on shipowners, managers and crewing agencies to integrate mental health into voyage planning from the outset.

### **NEW BOSTON REPRESENTATIVE SOUGHT**

M.E.B.A. is accepting résumés from an energetic and dedicated member interested in serving as the next Representative at our Boston Union hall. This is a unique and excellent opportunity to provide our Boston-area membership with the support they need to advance their shipping careers. Those who wish to be considered for this position should send a cover letter and résumé to our Atlantic Coast Vice President Jason Callahan at [jcallahan@mebaunion.org](mailto:jcallahan@mebaunion.org) and ‘cc’ Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha at [rrexha@mebaunion.org](mailto:rrexha@mebaunion.org). If a quality candidate is identified, the position could start as soon as possible or in accordance with the new hire’s availability.

### **MEMBERS INVITED TO JOIN AMMV AT PHILLY PARADE IN OCTOBER**

The American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) are asking members/retirees to join them in Philadelphia in October to represent the Fourth Arm of Defense at a parade.

The October 13<sup>th</sup> “Navy & Marine Corps 250 Parade,” is part of the celebration marking the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Navy’s founding on October 13, 1775. The Merchant Marine and Marine Corps are also celebrating their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversaries this year. There are a whole series of events that week beginning with a Parade of Ships at the Delaware River Waterfront on October 9. You can check out the schedule of events at this link: <https://www.homecoming250.org/schedule-of-events>

You can contact AMMV’s Dennis Ng to get involved at [dennisng60@gmail.com](mailto:dennisng60@gmail.com)

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

Monday, September 8 – Boston@1200. Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Tuesday, September 9 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, September 10 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org)

Thursday, September 11 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, September 12 – Honolulu@1100

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***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](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org). Website: [www.mebaunion.org](http://www.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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org) Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram. The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School can be contacted at (410) 822-9600 or [www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org). M.E.B.A. Plans is at (410) 547-9111 or [www.mebaplans.org](http://www.mebaplans.org)*