



JULY 2024

VOLUME 86, NO. 7

# SEAFARERS LOG

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION – ATLANTIC, GULF, LAKES AND INLAND WATERS, AFL-CIO

## SIU Celebrates National Maritime Day



The union had a strong presence in the nation's capital and elsewhere across the country for this year's National Maritime Day observances. Above, SIU officials, Paul Hall Center apprentices, featured speakers and honored guests are pictured at Department of Transportation headquarters immediately following the agency's annual ceremony on May 22. SIU President David Heindel (far left, front) was one of the speakers. *Pages 12-14.*

## Apprentices Participate in Memorial Day Observance



The SIU and its affiliated school were invited to represent the U.S. Merchant Marine during the traditional Memorial Day gathering at Arlington (Virginia) National Cemetery. Four apprentices carried flags for the event; President Biden gave the keynote address. Pictured outside the amphitheater are (from left) Apprentices Eliot Randall, Avery Sneed, Evan Smith and Luis Sanchez. *Page 24 (back page).*

## VP Celona Passes Away



The union is mourning the unexpected passing of SIU Vice President Government Services Nicholas Celona (above), a lifelong Seafarer. He died June 8, at age 65. *Page 4.*

## Honoring Our Mariners



David Heindel

Three recent ceremonies underscored both the importance of the U.S. Merchant Marine and our historic dependability.

I'm proud to say that the SIU played a role in each of these stirring occasions – two in the U.S., the other overseas.

In chronological order, the first of the events took place May 22 – National Maritime Day – at U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters in our nation's capital. I had the honor of sharing the stage with other speakers including Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro, TRANSCOM commanding officer General Jacqueline Van Ovost, U.S. Senator Mark Kelly, Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips, and Deputy Administrator Tamekia Flack. DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg also spoke via a recorded video.

There were other National Maritime Day ceremonies across the country and elsewhere – each important in its own right – but I think it's fair to say the DOT gathering usually holds special significance. This year's iteration was an especially good day for our union and our affiliated school, the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education (PHC). Just prior to the ceremony, our new recruiting video was shown to the audience. During the event itself, PHC apprentices played formal roles; they and their classmates (23 apprentices altogether) repeatedly were recognized by the various speakers.

The speeches themselves were anything but run-of-the-mill. Senator Kelly, a U.S. Merchant Marine Academy graduate, spelled out a detailed strategy for boosting every component of American maritime (more on that below). General Van Ovost emphasized that the U.S. Merchant Marine is nothing short of indispensable for national security. Others covered our role in World War II; current challenges navigating the Red Sea; tangible support for the industry from the Biden administration; and more.

Again, these weren't platitudes. Collectively, the comments explained how the U.S. Merchant Marine has been an important part of our nation since the very beginning, and how we're still crucial for national, economic and homeland security.

Less than a week after National Maritime Day, PHC apprentices took part in the annual Memorial Day observance at Arlington (Virginia) National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington. They stood for the U.S. Merchant Marine of World War II – mariners who are recognized as veterans.

They carried the respective flags of the United States; the U.S. Merchant Marine; the SIU; and the State of Maryland.

Calling our participation at Arlington an honor would be an understatement. It's a duly humbling and extremely worthwhile experience. The fact that President Biden, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Charles Q. Brown were the featured speakers – and Vice President Harris was in attendance – says a lot about the event's significance.

Last but not least, the SIU co-sponsored a new memorial unveiled in Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. With U.S. Merchant Marine World War II veterans in attendance, the monument was christened June 5 at Utah Beach – one part of an elaborate observance that again saw President Biden in attendance.

Our older members already know this, but for those just joining the union, please be aware that SIU members were there in force at the original D-Day, carrying troops and materiel. As always, we delivered (but it took our country 40 years to deliver them veterans' status).

These moments should not be taken for granted. They arrived not because the calendar had slots for them, but rather because of the sacrifices of past generations, the commitment of today's Seafarers, and our resolve to ensure that the United States very much remains a maritime nation.

### Key Legislation

Around press time, we anticipated the introduction of the most comprehensive maritime revitalization legislation in decades. This bipartisan bill offers great promise to every segment of the industry. The SIU has been active in its crafting – merely the latest example of why we must always remain politically active.

There's never really a sure timeline for these sorts of bills, particularly during an election year, but maritime labor is hopeful. Keep an eye on our website for updates before the next issue of the *LOG* is published.

Meanwhile, I thank all Seafarers who are pitching in for pro-maritime, pro-worker candidates this year, whether that's via SPAD or block-walking, phone-banking or other outreach. Those efforts have never been more important.

### Remembering Our SIU Brother

If you haven't already done so, please take the time to read our coverage of SIU Vice President Nicholas Celona's recent passing (page 4). Nick truly was one of a kind, and in all my years with this union, I never met anyone who loved the SIU more than he did. Nick was a true patriot and his enthusiasm for life was unsurpassed. He will be missed.

## Executive Board Promotes Vincenzo, Spain

The SIU Executive Board has unanimously approved Joe Vincenzo as the union's vice president for the Government Services Division, and Sam Spain as the assistant vice president for that sector. The board convened June 12 in Piney Point, Maryland.

These moves happened in the aftermath of the untimely passing of SIU Vice President Government Services Nicholas Celona (see article, page 4).

"Both Joe and Sam have my complete confidence," said SIU President David Heindel. "They have long, solid records of outstanding service to the membership and they are the right people for these jobs."

Vincenzo is a U.S. Army veteran who first sailed with the SIU in 1991 as an engine-department member. He last sailed in 2003 as a QMED aboard the *USNS 1st Lt Jack Lummus*.

Vincenzo has since served the union in various capacities including patrolman from 2003 to 2007 and Tacoma port agent from 2007 through 2019.

He became the assistant vice president of the Government Services Division in 2019 and had remained

in that slot, representing civilian mariners in the federal sector including the Military Sealift Command, NOAA, the Army Corp of Engineers and the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

Additionally, Vincenzo served as the UIW Alaska Region Representative, representing seafood process workers and fisheries observers. He also served as president of the South Puget Sound Port Council for four years.

He said the highlight of his 30-plus years with the SIU was his service to the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* in the capacity of oiler during the 50-year commemoration of D-Day, when the historic ship led the parade of vessels back to the beaches of Normandy in 1994.

In 2007, Vincenzo spearheaded Tacoma's philanthropic outreach partnering first with the United States Marine Corps and Toys for Tots and then with Joint Base Lewis McChord-based Santa's Castle, a 501(c)(3) benefitting lower enlisted military personnel.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts.

Vincenzo stated, "It is an honor and privilege to serve this great union of ours and its members in my new capacity as vice president of Government Services. I'm grateful for this opportunity to continue to work with a dedicated team of trade unionists, all of us, towards improved conditions of employment and work-life balance on behalf of our mariners."

He continued, "My time in the government sector began almost as soon as I came ashore in 2003, servicing NOAA, Army Corps of Engineers and MSC equipment and working with then-Vice President Kermet Mangram and his team. Early on, I participated in a number of arbitrations that centered on standard habitability and I was able to be of service on a number of weighty issues ranging from health and safety to, again, habitability. I was also assigned to work with then-Fleet Representative Kate Hunt on the NOAA collective bargaining agreement, which needed a major overhaul. Later, as assistant vice president to then-Vice President Kate Hunt, I worked closely with



SIU VP Joe Vincenzo



SIU Asst. VP Sam Spain

her and representatives from our sister unions on resolving the unprecedented issues that we all faced during the pandemic years, not least of which was the 'Gangways Up' order that restricted mariners to their various ships for the better part of one year."

He concluded, "As vice president, I will continue the work of my predecessors including our late, beloved brother and friend, Nicholas Celona by seeking out every opportunity to partner with various government agencies wherever and whenever possible to advance the interests of our mariners' lives at sea."

Spain joined the SIU in 1990. He sailed for a dozen years, most recently as a chief steward, before coming ashore to work as a union representative. Spain has always been based in Norfolk, Virginia, and will remain so.

"I took up the challenge of being a union representative because I knew I wanted to make a difference for the SIU and for unlicensed merchant seamen," Spain said. "I've looked to continue giving CIVMARS the same high level of representation as past officials and that is certainly my plan moving forward. We also always want to build on the relationship between the SIU and the Military Sealift Command."

Seafarers LOG Volume 86 Number 7 July 2024  
The SIU online: [www.seafarers.org](http://www.seafarers.org)

The Seafarers LOG (ISSN 1086-4636) is published monthly by the Seafarers International Union; Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters, AFL-CIO; 5201 Capital Gateway Drive; Camp Springs, MD 20746. Telephone (301) 899-0675. Periodicals postage paid at Southern Maryland 20790-9998. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Seafarers LOG, 5201 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, MD 20746.

Communications Director: Jordan Biscardo  
Assistant Communications Director: Nick Merrill  
Assistant Editor: Aja Neal  
Administrative Support: Jenny Stokes

Copyright © 2024 Seafarers International Union, AGLIW. All Rights Reserved.



The SIU engaged an environmentally friendly printer for the production of this newspaper.

# New Tonnage Enters APL Fleet



The *President John Quincy Adams* is part of the U.S. Maritime Security Program. (Photo by @masahumi higa)

**S**IU members are sailing aboard the newbuild *President John Quincy Adams*, the latest addition to the APL Marine Services fleet.

The union represents steward-department crew members aboard the 836-foot-long containership, which is enrolled in the U.S. Maritime Security Program (MSP). The *Adams* is a replacement vessel for the *President Truman*. It's also the first of what are expected to be at least seven new ships the company is rotating into its fleet to replace older tonnage. Most or all of those newbuilds are expected to begin sailing by the end of this year.

The MSP was launched in 1996 as part of the

Maritime Security Act signed by President Bill Clinton. Ever since then, the program has maintained bipartisan support. It fortifies the military's sealift capability in times of war or emergency by providing the Department of Defense access to the current number of 60 U.S.-flag, U.S.-crewed commercial vessels.

Furthermore, this capability provided by the MSP comes at a significantly lower cost to taxpayers than creating a permanent fleet of reserve government vessels to match it. The MSP also does not jeopardize the country's readiness by depending on foreign vessels, crews and shipping companies.



The initial SIU steward department members sailing aboard the vessel included (from left) Recertified Steward John Huyett, Chief Cook Reynaldo Ricarte and ACU Abdullah Alasfor.

## Members Ratify Landmark Contract



Seafarers employed by Penn Maritime recently approved a three-year contract featuring substantial wage increases and other gains. Of particular note, these members (more than 200) now are participants in the Seafarers Pension Plan. Penn was acquired by Kirby in 2012. Pictured from left in the larger group photo are Delegate John Harvard, SIU VP Joseph Soresi, SIU Asst. VP Mike Russo, SIU VP Dean Corgey, Delegate Michael Lyons and SIU Port Agent Joe Zavala. The other photo includes Zavala and Second Mate Marina Bartels.



## SIU Jobs Secure in OSG Transaction

SIU-contracted Overseas Shipholding Group (OSG) recently announced an agreement to be acquired by Saltchuk Resources. The transaction is subject to various regulatory approvals, but the union already has taken steps ensuring that all SIU shipboard jobs will be maintained.

Saltchuk is the parent company of several organizations including SIU-contracted TOTE.

"It will be business as usual for us," said SIU Vice President Contracts George Tricker.

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement that reflects our leading Jones Act business, longstanding customer relationships, and the value created by the OSG team over the past several years," said Douglas D. Wheat, chairman of the OSG Board of Directors.

"Following Saltchuk's indication of interest to buy the company at the end of January, the Board of Directors, with the assistance of external financial and legal advisors, undertook a review of the company's financial and strategic alternatives, including remaining a publicly held company. As part of that review, the board conducted a comprehensive process in which it engaged with Saltchuk and approached and engaged with other potential transaction counterparties. Informed by its review and that process, the board firmly believes Saltchuk's increased offer represents compelling value to, and is in the best interest of, our shareholders not affiliated with Saltchuk."

"We are excited to enter into this new chapter together with Saltchuk, which has been a significant

shareholder of OSG over the past several years and has a close understanding of our business," said OSG President and Chief Executive Officer Sam Norton. "Saltchuk's operating companies have distinguished themselves in their respective segments, and this transaction partners us with an organization that shares our values and focus on customers. We are thrilled to soon join the Saltchuk family of companies."

Following the close of the transaction, OSG will operate as a standalone business unit within Saltchuk, becoming a member of its family of diversified freight transportation, marine service, and energy distribution companies.

# SIU Vice President Celona Passes Away



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris (center) was an SIU ally long before taking her current office. She served as California's attorney general when this 2013 snapshot was taken at the annual Thanksgiving gathering hosted by the union in Oakland. Then-SIU Asst. VP Nicholas Celona is at right; SIU VP Nick Marrone is at left.



Pictured from left at a change-of-command ceremony in 2023 in Norfolk, Virginia, are then-SIU Representative Sam Spain, USTRANSCOM Commanding Officer Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Alan Frosch (spouse of Gen. Van Ovost), SIU VP Nicholas Celona and SIU Asst. VP Joe Vincenzo.

**W**hen it came to his union and his country, lifelong Seafarer Nicholas Celona unfailingly demonstrated a genuine enthusiasm that was impossible to miss.

Perpetually upbeat and motivated, Celona graduated from Paul Hall Center Trainee Class 229 in 1977, and he never left the union. He sailed until the early 1980s and then came ashore to work in various roles, most recently as the vice president of the SIU Government Services Division since 2021.

Celona unexpectedly passed away June 8 at his home in suburban New Orleans, from natural causes. He was 65.

Vice President Kamala Harris sent a condolence letter to Celona's family that was read at his memorial service June 18 in New Orleans. Harris and Celona were longtime colleagues and friends, going back to her days as an elected official first for the city of San Francisco and later for the state of California.

The letter reads in part, "Throughout his life, Mr. Celona was a dedicated community leader. I am grateful for his advocacy and commitment to our Nation's merchant mariners through his work at the Seafarers International Union. As we enter a new era in the American labor movement, we stand on the shoulders of leaders like Mr. Celona – and we will continue to uphold his legacy to ensure that unions are strong and that workers' voices and dignity are always respected."

Vice President Harris added, "I am particularly thankful for Mr. Celona's friendship. His joyous spirit and generosity were gifts to those whose lives he touched, and he will be remembered for the light he brought to this world."

SIU President David Heindel stated, "Back in the early 1980s, Nick and I had the privilege of working together in the port of New Orleans, a time during which we forged a lifelong friendship. Nick was a rare individual, brimming with a huge heart and an unwavering love for life. His infectious enthusiasm and unadulterated bravado left an indelible mark on everyone he met. As we remember Nick, we celebrate

not only a dedicated seafarer but also a beloved father and friend who enriched our lives in countless ways. My deepest sympathies to his wife, Denise, and daughters Jennifer and Danielle."

SIU Executive Vice President Augie Tellez said, "Nick was a true SIU brother – always positive and upbeat. He was a great motivator and organizer wherever he dropped anchor, and he was loyal to the core. He was so proud of his family, and also was proud that he finally became a member of the SIU Executive Board. He will be sorely missed."

SIU Vice President Contracts George Tricker described Celona as "a true patriot. If you ever wanted to assemble an all-star team for a foxhole, Nick would be a first-rounder. Only his staunch support for the U.S. Merchant Marine and his undying affection for the SIU can rival his devotion to the flag. He was a character in every sense and will be missed and remembered always."

Joe Vincenzo, who succeeded Celona as vice president of the Government Services Division, stated, "We lost a friend and a colleague – what an inspiration he was to us all. Anyone who knew him knew that he loved life and he loved SIU. Nick was all heart, street smart and could read the room and his audience as well or better than anyone. He had a way of making you feel appreciated. He will be missed."

American Maritime Officers President Willie Barere said, "Many AMO hawsepipers got to know Nick during their years sailing with the SIU, some from the very beginning of their careers. For all of us who have worked shoreside, Nick was a driving force and steadfast presence at many of the events and meetings that brought the U.S. seagoing labor community together to advance the cause of American mariners professionally and politically. He was a leader we had the pleasure of knowing and a man we mourn in his passing."

When he became an SIU vice president in 2021, Celona said, "My goals are to promote, protect and defend the U.S. Merchant Marine and the SIU

Government Services Division, which in turn will help ensure our national security. We have to make sure that supplies get through to our troops."

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Celona (who never lost the accent) graduated from Lafayette High School in 1976 and soon thereafter found a home with the SIU. After completing the trainee program, he sailed in the engine department until 1982, upgrading several times along the way (most recently to chief electrician). He sailed on vessels operated by Sea-Land, Maritime Overseas, Delta Line, American Hawaii Cruises, Bay Tankers and others.

Celona worked as a patrolman in New Orleans from 1983-88 and was involved in multiple inland beefs. He spent 1989 serving as the port agent in Piney Point before what turned out to be a long-term move to the West Coast. Celona was the union's San Francisco port agent from 1990-94; he became an assistant vice president in 1994.

Among other activities, he served as a delegate on the San Francisco-Alameda Labor Council, secretary-treasurer of the local port council, and a governor-appointed member of the board of directors of the Cow Palace (a popular, multi-purpose arena in Daly City, California).

Always politically active, Celona organized the union's annual Thanksgiving gatherings in San Francisco and Oakland, which ran for 29 straight years before temporarily being derailed due to the pandemic. Those feasts evolved into a Who's Who of politics, with regular appearances from Kamala Harris, Nancy Pelosi, John Garamendi, Eric Swalwell, Jackie Spier and many others. Based on his extensive work with the military, Celona in 2002 was sworn in as an honorary U.S. Marine, a rarity.



SIU VP Nicholas Celona (right) and SIU VP George Tricker are pictured in mid-May in Piney Point, Maryland. (The background is a photo backdrop.)



Celona (standing second from right) deeply respected the armed forces and included them in the long-running, annual Thanksgiving gatherings in San Francisco and Oakland. This photo is from the 2022 celebration and includes members of the 4th Marine Division, 23rd Regiment Color Guard along with SIU personnel.



Celona came ashore to work for the union in the early 1980s.

# Members Ratify American Steamship Contract

SIU members on the Great Lakes have overwhelmingly ratified a new 10-year contract between the union and American Steamship Company (ASC). Highlights of the new agreement include:

- A \$2,500 ratification bonus paid to all employees working for the company at the time the contract was ratified;
- A 6% across-the-board wage increase (with a 2% increase retroactively effective March 11, 2024, and another 4% increase retroactively effective April 15, 2024), and significant wage increases effective each subsequent year of the agreement which includes an annual cost-of-living escalator tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI);
- Enhancements to the Seafarers Vacation Plan benefit with one additional day added in 2025 and one more additional day added in 2027;
- Increases to Seafarers Money Purchase Pension Plan (SMPPP) benefit contributions over the life of the agreement, effective in 2025, 2027, and 2030;
- Maintains Core-Plus (top level) coverage for health and pension benefits under the Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan;
- An enhanced and modernized grievance procedure.



Pictured aboard the *Indiana Harbor* are (from left) Bosun Jeremy Shennett, Patrolman Tyson Little, Patrolman Jason Brown, Wheelsman Seddik Ali, UIW VP Monte Burgett, AB Kassim Ghaleb, Conveyorman Dejab Mohamed, and AB/Wheelsman Zarko Vrbljanac.

SIU Vice President Great Lakes and Inland Waters Bryan Powell stated, "This is a good contract, providing respectable wage increases and other enhancements for the crew members working for ASC. It provides long-term stability and predictability, and it should help attract and retain qualified mariners."

SIU Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski added, "Congratulations and a job well done by the Great Lakes negotiating team. It's great to see the contracts moving forward and that they provide enhanced wages, vacation, SMPPP as well as keeping the top-tier medical coverage."



Chief Cook Holly Norick  
*Burns Harbor*



OS/Gateman Karrington Copeland  
*Burns Harbor*



Chief Cook Nasser Abdulla  
*American Spirit*



AB/Wheelsman Raymond Hotchkiss, SIU Algonac Patrolman Jason Brown  
*American Spirit*



Pictured from left are SIU Patrolmen Monte Burgett and Tyson Little, and Wheelsman Abdulmoghni Said.

## SIU Officials Participate in Key Maritime Conference

SIU Vice President Bryan Powell and SIU Political Director Brian Schoeneman recently took part in a high-level conference at the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) aimed at implementing a national maritime strategy.

The gathering, co-sponsored by the Secretary of the Navy and the Maritime Administration (MARAD), took place May 15-17 in Arlington, Virginia, just outside the nation's capital. Participants included key maritime stakeholders from labor, government and industry. They teamed up to enhance a collective understanding of what the host organizations described as "complex maritime domain issues," with a goal of ultimately "offering recommendations on how to employ tools of maritime statecraft in a prioritized fashion to create a more favorable domestic and international maritime environment for advancing America's maritime power."

At various times during the conference, participants heard from guest speakers; worked together in breakout groups; and participated in open-session discussions.

MARAD last September announced its selection of the CNA "to conduct a study for the purpose of informing a new national maritime strategy. CNA is an independent, nonprofit Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) sponsored by the Department of the Navy with expertise in researching sealift needs for national security. This new national maritime strategy will be designed to position the U.S. maritime industry as a global leader for decades to come. Over the next year, CNA will engage with numerous public and private stakeholders in the maritime community to complete the study."

The agency further noted, "The National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 required MARAD to select an FFRDC to identify the key elements and objectives it needs to develop a U.S. maritime strategy that will revitalize the U.S. merchant

marine and our maritime industrial base to meet our Nation's economic and national security needs. The study is not a strategy, but rather a tool that can be used to provide a comprehensive approach to identifying and prioritizing the elements for a strategy."



Pictured at the conference are (from left) AMO President Willie Barrere, SIU VP Bryan Powell, Transportation Institute VP Sara Fuentes, SIU Political Director Brian Schoeneman and AMO VP Jeff Richards.

## ITF Updates FOC List

Two ship registries strongly associated with "dark fleet" transportation - Gabon and Eswatini - are the latest additions to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) flags of convenience (FOC) list.

The additions are accompanied by the removal of Tonga from the 76-year-old list, bringing the total number of FOCs to 43, the ITF said in a recent announcement.

The SIU is an ITF affiliate.

"It's a toxic industry - registering ships in countries where there is no regulation, no oversight and no accountability. It allows for exploitation and the abandonment of seafarers. The aim is to provide a shortcut for shipowners to generate money without necessarily complying with best practice risk mitigation and due diligence through regulatory accountability," said ITF President Paddy Crumlin.

According to the ITF, 50 percent of the world fleet is registered in FOC states. The top three contributors - Panama, Liberia, and the Marshall Islands - alone account for more than 40 percent of the international fleet.

SIU President David Heindel, who also serves as the ITF Seafarers' Section Chair, said, "The whole flags of convenience system is complex on purpose. The reasons for registering ships under flags of convenience is to avoid tax, avoid safety regulations, and circumvent labor standards and human rights. A genuine link between the ship and its registry is so important to be able to identify who is the real owner. Flag registers should not be allowed to operate as businesses using lower standards than traditional national registers. Until that's stopped, seafarers' rights will continue to be abused with impunity."

# Report of the Constitutional Committee

We, the undersigned Constitutional Committee, were elected at a Special Meeting held in Piney Point on June 24, 2024, in accordance with Article XXV, Section 2 of our Constitution. We have had referred to us and studied proposed Constitutional Amendments contained in Resolutions submitted by our Executive Board.

With the exception of one minor proposed amendment, these Resolutions, containing the proposed amendments, prior to their submission to us, were adopted by a majority vote of the membership. The provisions of these Resolutions, including their “WHEREAS” clauses, are contained in this report so that all members have available to them their full text for review and study at the same time that they read this, our Report and Recommendations.

Whereas, the Executive Board of this Union met on January 31, 2024 for the purpose of discussing potential amendments to the constitution of this Union; and

Whereas, after lengthy discussions, the Board members unanimously decided that since the constitution of this union has not been amended since 2013 and, that over the last ten years, there have been many changes in the industry, the labor movement, and this union which, in their opinion, warrant constitutional amendments,

The Executive Board resolved to present the following potential amendments to the membership for their action.

1. To make our union’s constitution more inclusive, amend all places in the document where the current word used is linked to one gender such as “he” to “he or she”.

2. In a further effort to make the constitution more current and inclusive, replace the words “crimps and finks” with “manning agents” and add additional classifications to the existing list in the statement of principles against which discrimination will not be tolerated. The list would be amended to include: sexual orientation, national origin, disability and age.

3. Amend Article III, section 3 (e) to make it easier for members to stay in good standing if they are unable to timely pay dues while on an American flag vessel anywhere in the world and Amend Article III by adding a section 3 (f) to indicate that any member on check-off through an employer or the Seafarers Vacation Plan would automatically be in good standing.

4. Amend Article III, Section 1 to make it clear that probationary members enjoy certain rights of membership but not all the rights enjoyed by full book members. Your committee believes and is recommending that there is no need to amend this section of the constitution as the Union’s consistent practice has always been that probationary book members have the right to express themselves at membership meetings but do not have the right to vote at such meetings with the exception of contract ratifications.

5. Amend Article V, Section 1 (a). As there has not been an increase in dues since 2006, and to enable the union to continue servicing the membership at the level they have come to expect, raise the dues \$25/quarter effective the second quarter of 2025 and then raise it an additional \$25/quarter on January 1, 2027.

6. Amend Article V, Section 2 for the same reasons as the proposed dues increase by raising the initiation fee paid by new members joining after January 1, 2025,

by \$500 and amend Article V section 2 to increase the service fee for the issuance of a full book by \$15.00

7. Amend Article VI, Section 4 to make it easier for members to have their rights restored after retiring their books by paying one-quarter dues each year that the book is in retirement during the quarter when their book was retired.

8. Amend Article VIII. In a further effort to expand services for the Union’s membership and to help ensure that the union’s diversity and educational goals are met, add two new Vice President positions: a Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and a Vice President of Training and Education along with corresponding assistant Vice President positions and allow the new officers to serve as delegates to the union’s parent organization in accordance with the constitutional guidelines.

9. Amend Article X, Section 1 (j) to change the word “shall” to “may” in the constitutional section pertaining to the filling of union officer and representative positions by providing the president with sufficient time to properly fill a vacant office.

10. Amend Article X, Sections 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 to make the titles of three existing Vice Presidents’ positions more in line with their actual work and the territory they serve by placing the Caribbean region under the Gulf Coast; remove the words “Southern Region and inland waters” from the territory of the Great Lakes Vice President and remove the words “fishing industries” from the responsibilities of the Government Services Vice President.

11. Amend Article X, Section 12. In keeping with current times, formally allow the executive board to hold meetings virtually to save costs when it is efficient to do so.

12. Amend Article XIII, Section 1 (g) to help individuals who wish to run for union office and are on a vessel during the period of nominations by allowing them to use an email address and to allow the credentials committee the right to reach out via email or expedited mail if it needs to reach a member with any questions.

13. Amend Article XIII, Section 2 (c) to clarify that any appeals to an action of the credentials committee need to be filed in time for such appeal to be acted upon by the membership at the regular membership meeting following the committee’s election and prior to the issuance of its report.

14. Amend Article XIII, Section 3 (a). In a further effort to engage the membership in union elections and proceedings, expand the voting period by one month to provide more time for members to vote (October through December) which would also entail moving the nominating period and the election and service of the credentials committee back one month to July of the election year.

15. Amend Article XII, Section 1 (c) by including vessels in ROS status among the types of vessels for which sixty-five (65) days of seetime is required rather than one hundred (100) days of seetime between January 1 and the time of nomination during an election year. This was suggested due to the possibility of starting the voting period in October which would entail moving the nominating period back by one month. Your committee acknowledges that this particular proposed amendment was not presented to the membership

during the June membership meetings; however, we are recommending that it be included with all the other proposed amendments to help ensure that members who work on ROS vessels who wish to run for union office will be able to do so, assuming they satisfy all other eligibility requirements.

16. Amend Article XIII, Section 3 (a). In accordance with the wishes of the membership as expressed at membership meetings, make permanent the provision to allow ballots to be brought to vessels, subject to guidelines set by the executive board.

17. Amend Article XIII, Section 3 (a). Considering the proposal to expand the voting period by a month and bringing ballots to vessels, remove Saturday voting at union halls.

18. Amend Article XIII, Section 3 (e) to make it easier for members to vote absentee if incapacitated by illness or injury.

19. Amend Article XIII, Section 4 (b) to increase the tallying committee from 20 to 28 members due to the addition of four new constitutional ports and raise the committee’s quorum from 10 to 14 members.

20. Again, due to the addition of four new constitutional ports, increase the number of elected port agents by 4: 1 for Norfolk, 1 for Jacksonville, 1 for Long Beach, and 1 for Tacoma.

21. Amend Article XXIII to add the four new constitutional ports to the regular membership meeting schedule and move the date when the Algonac meeting is held to the Thursday in the week following its current meeting date.

22. Amend Article XVII. In keeping with current times, codify the Union’s ability to use social media to communicate with its members.

23. Allow the constitution to be amended to take care of non-substantive housekeeping, grammatical and spelling errors throughout the document; such as changing the word “contract” to “collective bargaining agreement”, changing the words “under an incapacity” to “incapacitated”, changing “in behalf” to “on behalf”, etc.

Be it resolved that, if approved by a majority vote of the membership, the foregoing proposed amendments, with the exception of number 4, be placed on the ballot along with the election of officers for use during the upcoming election.

We further recommend, if it is reasonably possible, that a copy of our Committee’s Report containing the proposed Resolutions and membership action taken to date, be printed in the Seafarers LOG, August 2024 issue, so that the membership will be kept abreast as to all facts and actions taken as of this time. In addition, we recommend that copies of such LOG issue, to the extent possible, be made available to the membership at all Union offices and Halls during the months of November and December 2024.

Your Constitutional Committee wishes to thank the Union, its officers, representatives, members, and counsel for their cooperation and assistance during our deliberations and to assure all members that we believe the adoption of the proposed Resolutions will serve the needs of the Union and the membership.

DATE: June 25, 2024  
Fraternally submitted,  
Constitutional Committee

## 2024 SIU Election Absentee Voting Info

Elections for the SIU Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters are scheduled for later this year. As in past SIU election years, a comprehensive guide will be published in the *Seafarers LOG* prior to the balloting.

In the case of members eligible to vote who believe they will be at sea during the Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2024 voting period or who otherwise think they will need absentee ballots, absentee ballots will be available.

The SIU constitution ensures that members who are eligible to vote and who find themselves in this situation may vote. Procedures are established in the SIU constitution to safeguard the secret ballot election, including the absentee ballot process.

Here is the procedure to follow when requesting

an absentee ballot:

1. Make the request in writing to the SIU office of the secretary-treasurer, 5201 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, MD 20746.

2. Include in the request the correct address where the absentee ballot should be mailed.

3. Send the request for an absentee ballot by registered or certified mail.

4. The registered or certified mail envelope must be postmarked no later than midnight, Nov. 15, 2024 and must be received at 5201 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, MD 20746 no later than Nov. 25, 2024.

5. The secretary-treasurer, after confirming eligibility, will send by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the address designated in the request, a ballot, together with an envelope marked “Ballot”

and a mailing envelope no later than Nov. 30, 2024.

6. Upon receiving the ballot and envelope, vote by marking the ballot. After voting the ballot, place the ballot in the envelope marked “Ballot.” Do not write on the “Ballot” envelope.

7. Place the envelope marked “Ballot” in the mailing envelope which is imprinted with the mailing address of the bank depository where all ballots are sent.

8. Sign the mailing envelope on the first line of the upper left-hand corner. Print name and book number on the second line. The mailing envelope is self-addressed and stamped.

9. The mailing envelope must be postmarked no later than midnight, Dec. 31, 2024 and received by the bank depository no later than Jan. 5, 2025.

# SHBP Scholarship Winners Awarded Total of \$120,000 for Academic Pursuits

One Seafarer and five SIU dependents/relatives have been awarded scholarships from the Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan (SHBP) to pursue further education.

Teachers from educational institutions across the country, both active and retired, were selected to serve on the SHBP Scholarship Committee, which convened in May. Together they chose Chief Steward **Ashley Nguyen** as the Seafarer winner. She will receive a \$20,000 award (\$5,000 for each of four years).

The committee also selected Amelia Gohs, JJ Nicole Malunes, Troy Madrio, Teresito Reyes Jr., and Zaid Saleh as the Seafarer dependent winners. Each of these students will receive \$20,000 total.

The following profiles detail the ambitions and achievements of this year's Charlie Logan Scholarship recipients.

## Ashley Nguyen

**SIU Connection:** Nguyen is a Chief Steward who joined the union in 2016.

**Bio:** Nguyen lives in California. She joined SIU as an apprentice and is now sailing as a chief steward. Her story with SIU began after earning her college degree, but working jobs that didn't satisfy her or effectively utilize her diploma. Nguyen's educational aspirations will allow her to work with individuals, couples, and families, with the aim of making a difference in their lives through therapy. She plans to use her degree alongside her own life experience managing anxiety to help normalize discussions about mental health in her community.



**Education:** Nguyen graduated from California State University in 2010, where she studied Human Development with a concentration in counseling. She has applied to the University of Nevada Las Vegas, National University, and Touro University, where she plans to start a program in marriage and family therapy.

**Quotable:** "Since graduating, I always said if I could redo school I would. I didn't have the confidence then to put my degree to use. Now, as a more grown, confident adult, I changed my negative self-talk. I can redo school and I want to, which is why I am applying for the SIU scholarship program.... The SIU scholarship will give me a second chance at allowing me to do what I am truly passionate about, helping others who have struggled."

## Amelia Gohs

**SIU Connection:** Gohs is the daughter of Recertified Bosun **Paul Gohs**.

**Bio:** Inspired by her family's own medical history and her experience navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gohs aims to use her scholarship to become a driving force for encouraging people to incorporate preventative care methods into their lifestyles. The definition of a well-rounded high school student, Gohs participated in several team sports, joined the robotics club, held positions as secretary of the National Honor Society Caritas Chapter, and served three consecutive terms as vice president and later president of her student council. She also worked at A&W and at McDonald's, where she honed her strong work ethic.



**Education:** Gohs recently graduated from All Saints Catholic High School as salutatorian with a GPA of 4.18. During her high school years, she also completed three credits at Delta College as part of a dual enrollment program. She has applied to Grand Valley State University, Central Michigan University, and Saginaw

Valley State University, the latter of which she plans to attend to pursue her degree in Public Health.

**Quotable:** "The community and web of friends I've grown with over the years has done so much for me, and the kindness of both friends and strangers alike is something I strive to give back. That is why I plan to attend Saginaw Valley State University and major in public health – so that I may one day benefit those around me, as to improve the quality of life for those in my community. Large-scale health issues can be hindered at the beginning, as long as there are those behind the scenes who are willing and wanting to prevent them. The opportunity for me to incorporate that idea into an actual career is a dream that I want to chase down and catch."

## JJ Nicole Malunes

**SIU Connection:** Malunes is the daughter of Bosun **Arsenio Malunes Jr.**

**Bio:** After reading the "Percy Jackson" series as a young child, Malunes saw great parallels to Greek god Poseidon and her seafaring dad, "since both were fathers who left for extended periods of time to traverse the oceans." Still, she shared her major milestones with him while he was away via her motion-detecting doorbell camera. Malunes' interest in criminology/forensic psychology developed through watching Criminal Minds and true crime documentaries when she was a high school freshman during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially, she aspired to become a forensic anthropologist with the FBI, but after reading the biography of someone in that line of work, she instead decided that she could still satisfy her curiosities about the human brain by pursuing neuroscience.



**Education:** Malunes graduated from Mayfair High School. She has applied to the University of California, California State University of Long Beach, and University of California Los Angeles.

**Quotable:** "I have always idolized my father as Poseidon – undeniably strong, unwaveringly brave, endlessly inspiring – but I have only just begun to see myself in Percy Jackson: steadfastly loyal, passionately determined, wholeheartedly resilient; the son of Poseidon. Like the ocean itself, the potential for my future cannot be confined; it is limitless."

## Troy Madrio

**SIU Connection:** Madrio is the son of AB **Roy A. Madrio**.

**Bio:** Madrio's fascination with space and astronomy was piqued at a young age. Galvanized by a high school astronomy course that left him wanting more, he began independently studying astrophysics. Soon after, he became a regular volunteer at his school's McCarthy Observatory, and founded his school's Astronomy Club. He also has a passion for music. A "jack-of-all-brass," he knows how to play the euphonium, the trombone, the French horn, and the tuba. Madrio intends to further explore the universe's deepest mysteries at Cornell University for undergraduate study and eventually earn his masters and Ph.D. in order to become a researcher and professor.



**Education:** Madrio graduated from New Milford High School. He has applied to Cornell University, Princeton University, Harvard University, and Columbia University. He plans to attend the former and double major in Astrophysical Sciences and Mathematical Computer Science.

**Quotable:** "I explored the wave-particle duality of photons, the never-ending war between dark energy

and gravity, the flavors of quarks, nuclear chromodynamics, stellar evolution, cosmology, Hawking radiation, and the time-dilating domain of relativity. The nuance and complexity of astrophysics never seemed to end, and I realized that I wanted nothing more than to explore this fractal of science for the rest of my life."

## Teresito Reyes Jr.

**SIU Connection:** Reyes Jr. is the son of Chief Cook **Teresito Reyes Sr.**

**Bio:** Reyes Jr. describes himself as a timid, shy boy who was always encouraged by his mother to "dream big and aim high." Emigrating to Hawaii from the Philippines at age 12 inspired him to break out of his shell and immerse himself wholeheartedly into a new culture and environment. When he moved again to California, he continued to cultivate a sense of belonging with his classmates and with a community of those who shared his Filipino heritage. During high school, Reyes Jr. played tennis, participated in art club, book club, and theater. He volunteered at FILCOM, the Filipino Community Center assisting with COVID vaccinations and testing and also served as a Health Academy Ambassador.



**Education:** Reyes Jr. attended Governor Farrington Wallace High School for ninth and tenth grades, and Murrieta Valley High School for the remainder of his high school career. He participated in the IB Diploma program at Murrieta Valley. He plans to attend Mt. San Jacinto College and study nursing.

**Quotable:** "I learned that as a leader, it matters not what one does for attention, but rather for the selfless benefit of others. Looking back, I've learned that experience, discipline, and an adventurous attitude will greatly benefit my passions as I dream big and aim high."

## Zaid Saleh

**SIU Connection:** Saleh is the son of SA **Fahd Saleh**.

**Bio:** Saleh's longstanding interest in cars and machines, persisting from his childhood, has led him to pursue a career in engineering post-high school. His academic studies and excellent performance in mathematics and physics have demonstrated his talent for the subjects as well as his strong problem-solving skills. Not only has Saleh graduated a year ahead of schedule, but he did so while also participating on soccer and basketball teams. His counselor denotes his goal-driven nature in her recommendation letter, saying that since he had been a freshman in high school, he had been planning his early graduation.



**Education:** Saleh attended Homestead High School and is graduating after his junior year. He plans to study mechanical engineering at Purdue University.

**Quotable:** "I am determined to make a positive impact through my work in mechanical engineering and I believe that receiving this scholarship will enable me to further my education and contribute innovative solutions in the field."



# At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



**ON THE JOB IN SUNSHINE STATE** – Longtime friends and SIU Bosuns Munassar Ahmed (left) and Greg Jackson are pictured in Jacksonville, Florida.



**STOPPING BY OAKLAND HALL** – Recertified Bosun Antuan Webb (second from right) is pictured recently with his three sons, plus SIU VP Nick Marrone (second from left) and Port Agent Duane Akers.



**A-BOOK IN CALIFORNIA** – AB Michael Adote (right) receives his A-seniority book. He's pictured at the Wilmington hall with SIU Port Agent Gerret Jarman.



**ABOARD CAPE SHIPS** – These snapshots are from the May 9 servicing of the ROS Crowley vessels *Cape Cortes* (formerly the *Freedom*) and *Cape Arundel* (formerly the *Honor*) in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The IDs are from left in each photo, starting with the photo at far left: SB Demarius Jones, SIU Mobile Port Agent Jimmy White, Bosun Deontre Blount; Chief Cook Natasha Staton and Jones; SB Perry Martin and Chief Cook Deirick Coltrane; BREC Dave Coleman, White, ABM Jahn Boman, OS Armonie Lowe.



**ABOARD AMERICAN FREEDOM** – Pictured on the *Intrepid* ship are (from left) Recertified Bosun Joshua Mensah and SIU Tacoma Patrolman Dennison Forsman.



**FULL BOOK IN GUAM** – AB Angel Reyes (right) picks up his book at the hiring hall. He's pictured with SIU Port Agent Victor Sahagon.



**PRO-MARITIME CONGRESSMAN** – SIU VP Atlantic Coast Joseph Soresi (left) is pictured with U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pennsylvania) at a recent fundraiser coinciding with a Phillies game. Boyle is a solid backer of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

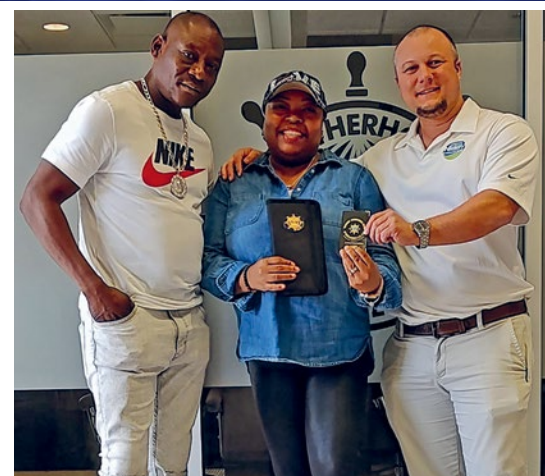
# At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



**ABOARD CAPE SABLE** – Pictured from left aboard the Crowley ship in late May are SIU Norfolk Port Agent Mario Torrey, AB Vincent Williams, STOS Denzel Johnson, Bosun Leander Garrett and AB Jonathan Jones.



**SOLIDARITY IN TEXAS** – Safety Director Kevin Sykes recently attended the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists convention in Houston. He's at right, with CBTU President Terry Melvin.



**MILESTONE IN HOUSTON** – Chief Steward Claudia Mauricio-Brice (center) receives her A-seniority book at the Houston hall. She's pictured with her husband, Jesus Montero (left), and SIU Patrolman J.B. Niday.



**WELCOME ASHORE IN TACOMA** – Recertified Steward Dennis Skretta (left) receives his first pension check from SIU Port Agent Warren Asp at the hiring hall. Skretta started sailing with the SIU in 1978.



**BOOKS GALORE IN VIRGINIA** – GUDE Tykeem Blowe-Warren (second from left in photo above, left) and GVA Lonnell Bell (second from right) receive their respective full books at the May membership meeting in Norfolk. They are pictured with SIU VP Atlantic Coast Joseph Soresi (right) and SIU Port Agent Mario Torrey (left). In the remaining photo, OMU Kevin Snowden (right) also obtains his full book. SIU Patrolman Josh Rawls is left.



**THANKING LEGISLATOR** – SIU Philadelphia Port Agent Joe Baselice (left) is pictured with pro-maritime U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (D-New Jersey) during a gathering in Cherry Hill. Baselice thanked the congressman for his consistent backing of the U.S. Merchant Marine.



**ABOARD MAERSK MONTANA** – Pictured from left aboard the ship are Bosun James Gregory, SIU Norfolk Patrolman Josh Rawls, and AB Cheryl Lee.



**WELCOME ASHORE IN JACKSONVILLE** – Seafarer Peter Bondarenko (right), pictured at the hall with SIU Patrolman Brian Guiry, receives his first pension check. He most recently worked as a lead hull technician at Crowley.



**SOLIDARITY IN SAN JUAN** – The SIU had a strong turnout for International Workers Day/May Day in Puerto Rico on May 1. Heavy rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the thousands of attendees, who gathered to express support for workers' rights. The SIU contingent included Asst. VP Amancio Crespo, Safety Director Ricky Rivera, STOS Abdiel Clinton, QMED Edwin Morales, and Steward/Baker Billy Joel Burgos-Burgos.

# At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



**AT THE SAN JUAN HALL** – Pictured from left in each photo, starting at far left: Chief Cook Isis Vasquez obtains her full book from SIU Asst. VP Amancio Crespo; the assistant VP stands with Bosun Jorge Soler, proudly holding his A-seniority book that's stamped "Certified to Sail Bosun"; Crespo, Steward/Baker Jesus Pacheco receiving his A-seniority book, Safety Director Ricky Rivera; and Chief Cook Victor Valentin receives his full book from Rivera.



**ABOARD POTOMAC EXPRESS** – Pictured from left aboard the Intrepid vessel in mid-May are Paul Hall Center Apprentice Caleb Rawls, SIU Norfolk Patrolman Josh Rawls (no relation), SIU Norfolk Port Agent Mario Torrey, Bosun Renaudo Pierce, and Paul Hall Center Apprentice Christopher Holmes.



**AN SIU FAMILY** – Pictured from left at the Jacksonville, Florida, hall are QEE Randy J. Slue, his brother Wiper Donald Slue (holding his newly acquired union book), and QEE Randy D. Slue (better known as Dad). The elder Randy expressed his appreciation for the union and the opportunities it has given him and his sons who are following in his path.



**ABOARD WEST VIRGINIA** – Seafarers are pictured on the Seabulk ship in the Pacific Northwest. From left: Steward/Baker Armon Bailey, AB Dwan Reed, SA Francisco Amada, Pumpman Scott Fuller, AB Marlon Ozaraga, Chief Cook Gil Serrano and AB Juberto Perez.



**ABOARD ATB** – Pictured in Florida on the TOTE ATB Tortuga/Clean Everglades are (left to right, starting with photo at far left) AB Joseph Wattam, AB Justin Zlotucha, and First Asst. Engineer Jay Benyard.



**FULL BOOK IN CHARM CITY** – QMED Mohamad Kammoun (center) obtains his book. He's pictured at the Baltimore hall with SIU Port Agent John Hoskins (left) and Safety Director Jose Argueta.

# At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



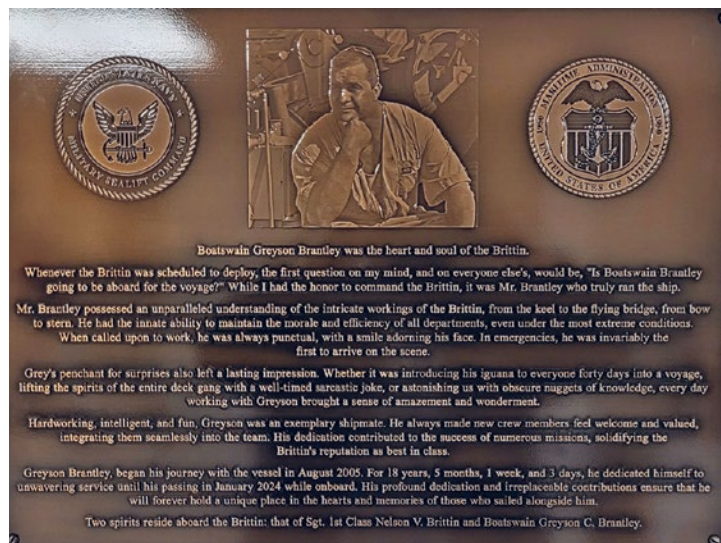
**ABOARD USNS ALGOL** – Deck department members are pictured on the Ocean Duchess ship in San Francisco prior to sailing. From left: AB Andre Nero, AB Jeremy Smoot, Recertified Bosun Ritche Acuman, AB Ibrahim Abubaker, GUDE Rodolfo Ludovice, AB Ed Copeland, AB Johncarlo Garibaldi, OS Abdelrahim Salih, Capt. Raymond Davis, OS Shamar Rhoden and OS Christian Jones.



**WELCOME ASHORE IN HOUSTON** – Capt. Bruce Cram (center), who sailed with G&H Towing for 47 years, receives his first pension check at the hiring hall. He's pictured with Patrolmen J.B. Niday (left) and Kirk Pegan. "This one is special to me because I trained under Capt. Cram as a new mate while at G&H," Niday noted.



**REMEMBERING BOSUN BRANTLEY** – Mariners on the *USNS Brittin* (Pasha) attend a recent shipboard ceremony to honor the memory of Bosun Greyson Brantley, who passed away in January at age 54. They are pictured above with a floral wreath and his commemorative plaque. The remaining photo includes the shipboard plaque made to honor Brantley's legacy and many years of service aboard the vessel. SIU New Orleans Patrolman George Owen, Brantley's stepbrother, stated, "Grey would've been good at anything he would've done, but he was excellent at what he did. He was a sailor's sailor. He had the ingenuity to come up with ways to solve problems and thought of things other bosuns didn't." Brantley began sailing with the SIU in 1988, at age 19.



**ON THE RECRUITING TRAIL** – The turnout proved massive at a recent career fair in Essex County, New Jersey. Pictured at the SIU/Paul Hall Center table (above, right) are Port Agent Ray Henderson (left) and Patrolman James Bast.



**ABOARD GLOBAL SENTINEL** – The two photos directly above were taken during a recent servicing aboard the SubCom vessel in Baltimore. The larger group photo includes steward department members along with Safety Director Jose Argueta (left) and Patrolman Shane Sterry (right). Bosun Devin Hoerr is in the center of the other photo, with Argueta (right) and Sterry (left).



# SIU Observes National Maritime Day

From coast to coast and in the U.S. territory of Guam, the SIU played a typically active role in this year's National Maritime Day observances. Those respective ceremonies took place in Washington, D.C.; Houston; Port Arthur, Texas; Galveston, Texas; Norfolk, Virginia; and Guam.

The union and its affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education (PHC) handled particularly noteworthy roles in this year's National Maritime Day ceremony at U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) headquarters in the nation's capital. SIU President David Heindel was a featured speaker at the May 22 gathering; PHC Apprentice **Eliot Randall** carried a ceremonial wreath, while fellow Apprentice **Luis Sanchez** rang the traditional "eight bells."

The union and the PHC had a strong turnout. In addition to the aforementioned individuals, attendees among the crowd of 200 or so included SIU Executive Vice President Augie Tellez, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski, Assistant Vice President Pat Vandegrift, Political Director Brian Schoeneman, Trainee Commandant John Romer, and 21 other apprentices.

The theme for this year's event was "Navigating the Future: Safety First!" The featured speakers, in order of appearance, were Deputy Maritime Administrator Tamekia Flack; Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips; DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg (via a recorded video); Heindel; Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, commanding officer of the U.S. Transportation Command; U.S. Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro; and U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Arizona). All of the speakers emphasized the critical importance of the U.S. Merchant Marine to America's national, economic and homeland security.

Near the end of the ceremony, World War II mariner Allen Johnson, who first shipped out at age 17, received several awards and medals for his service. He briefly addressed the crowd and also offered some remarks in a recently recorded video.

During Heindel's remarks, the SIU president thanked the administration, Congress, and military leaders for backing the U.S. maritime industry.

Focusing on the theme, he stated, "Safety is always and must remain 'Job 1,' and for the SIU that starts in



Attendees await the start of the Department of Transportation National Maritime Day ceremony at the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Piney Point and at every one of our hiring halls, and continues through to every voyage and every shipboard safety drill, and is reinforced when a Seafarer returns to upgrade his or her rating or license. We also have our sights set on new fuels and new technology that are on the horizon and which promise to bring changes to shipboard life. We are actively working with the United Nations bodies as well as others to help ensure that shipping's response to the climate emergency puts mariners and communities at the heart of the solution, always with an emphasis on safety training, handling and operations."

He later said that "we in the SIU are ever-mindful" of the sacrifices of World War II mariners (including the more than 1,235 SIU members who lost their lives in the war effort), and that he sees a passion in today's rank-and-file membership when it comes to upholding their role as part of America's fourth arm of defense.

"They know that in times of crisis, our troops depend on them to deliver the material needed," Heindel said. "They will not let anything stop them from fulfilling that most-critical mission."

He concluded, "The U.S. Merchant Marine has been a key part of this nation since America's earliest

days. And in all the years since then, one thing hasn't changed and never will: Give us the ships, give us the cargo, and we'll deliver."

Immediately before the ceremony, attendees watched the PHC's new recruiting video, shown on the in-house monitors.

The event also included salutes to the late SIU President Michael Sacco, who passed away late last year.

Flack saluted the U.S. Merchant Marine's centuries-old record of service to the nation, and expressed confidence in the industry's ongoing reliability.

"If history is any indicator of our future, we can be assured that even when things get tough – and they will get tough – our national leadership, our maritime industry and our U.S. Merchant Mariners will answer the call to duty," she said.

Phillips said the merchant marine "must be maintained, not merely as an instrument for commercial expansion but as a weapon for protection – the protection of American life and property.... Our maritime sector is a cornerstone of America's economy and security, responsible for the safe transport of billions of tons of cargo annually across our waterways and carrying our DOD and other government and com-



SIU President David Heindel addresses the crowd in the nation's capital.



Paul Hall Center Apprentices (from left) Luis Sanchez and Eliot Randall played formal roles in the DOT event (sounding "eight bells" and carrying a memorial wreath, respectively).



Deputy Maritime Administrator Tamekia Flack underscores the historic reliability and sacrifice of the nation's mariners.



Gen. Van Ovost greets Paul Hall Center apprentices after the DOT ceremony.



U.S. Rep. Mark Kelly (D-Arizona) presents a detailed plan to revitalize the U.S. Merchant Marine.



Four of the DOT featured speakers are pictured before the ceremony with World War II mariner Allen Johnson (center), who was honored during the formal gathering. From left are Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips, U.S. Transportation Command commanding officer Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Johnson, U.S. Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro, and SIU President David Heindel. (Photo courtesy DOT)

mercial cargos internationally, entrusted to the very capable hands of American mariners.”

During his video greeting, Buttigieg said mariners “are at the heart of America’s national security, our economic strength and our national character.”

Van Ovost stated, “It is the dedication and expertise of our mariners that creates the backbone of our marine transportation system. So, thank you for your professionalism, your dedication and patriotism and service to our nation.... We are a maritime nation. We sailed the oceans to global prominence and it is imperative that we maintain our strength as a maritime nation today and into the future.”

Del Toro noted, “Since the very beginning of the American Revolution, our U.S. Merchant Marine has been at the heart of our economic life and indispensable to not just our national security but our economic security in this country.... We must never forget that nearly 10,000 U.S. Merchant Mariners lost their lives in World War II – a higher casualty rate than any other service, including my own beloved Marine Corps.”

Kelly, a former mariner whose father sailed in World War II, said, “As many of you know, the U.S. Merchant Marine and our maritime industry are incredibly important to me.... When I graduated from Kings Point in 1986, there were about 400 or so U.S.-flagged oceangoing ships. Today that number has fallen to about 80 ships operating in international commerce flying the U.S. flag. By the way, China has nearly 5,500. The reason for this change can almost entirely be attributed to policy decisions. They were decisions made by prior administrations and prior congresses.”

He then explained the comprehensive, bipartisan maritime revitalization legislation he and others are crafting, with industry-wide input (including from the SIU).

*Additional photos from other National Maritime Day ceremonies on Page 14.*



Apprentices from the SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education attend the National Maritime Day ceremony in the nation’s capital. (Photo courtesy DOT)



Prior to the event in Washington, D.C., SIU Exec. VP Augie Tellez (left) chats with (from left) Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, commanding officer of the U.S. Transportation Command, and Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro. (Photo courtesy DOT)



SIU Exec. VP Augie Tellez (center, with hands folded) and SIU Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski (far right in the same row) help represent the union at the DOT commemoration. SIU Political Director Brian Schoeneman is at far right directly behind Orzechowski.

## A Proclamation on National Maritime Day, 2024

*From the White House:*

Our Nation’s merchant mariners embody the highest aspirations of our democracy, always answering our country’s call with commitment and courage. Today, we honor their service and sacrifice. Together, we recommit to meeting our sacred obligation to care for them and their families.

Unbreaking and unbending in their devotion to duty, our merchant mariners have stood for our Nation’s freedom and liberty throughout history – from delivering critical goods and troops to the battlefields of World War II to responding to devastating natural disasters around the world and shipping the goods and military cargo that keep our Nation safe and prosperous. Today, our merchant mariners are continuing this legacy of service, delivering humanitarian aid to people in need and transporting military equipment around the world. At the same time, merchant mariners are engines of our economy. They facilitate international trade and strengthen our supply chains by transporting billions of dollars of goods across oceans, seas, and waterways to the hands of American businesses and consumers.

Our merchant mariners have always met the moment – and my Administration will always have their backs. That is why we are ensuring that ships traveling between United States ports are American-built, American-owned, and American-crewed by enforcing the Jones Act. This will not only support American shipbuilding but will also support good union jobs. Meanwhile, we have made historic investments in our Nation’s infrastructure, including rebuilding our ports so that they are safer, cleaner, and easier and more affordable to move through.

We also recognize that our merchant mariners are strongest when they reflect the full diversity of our Nation. My Budget proposes \$191 million for the United States Merchant Marine Academy to educate and train the next generation of seagoing officers and maritime leaders. Additionally, my Administration established Every Mariner Builds A Respectful Culture Standards to prevent sexual assault and harassment and to support survivors.

Today, as we honor all that merchant mariners have done for our Nation, we also recognize the mariners who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. We owe these fallen heroes a debt of gratitude we can never fully repay. But our Nation will never forget their legacy and that of every mariner who has dared all, risked all, and given all for our Nation.

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. I also request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2024, as National Maritime Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day and to celebrate the United States Merchant Marine and maritime industry with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

# Seafarers Celebrate National Maritime Day



SIU Port Agent Victor Sahagon (right) took part in a National Maritime Day ceremony in Guam. He's pictured with Norma R. Pillman from the Military Sealift Command. Personnel from the Coast Guard and the Navy also participated in the event.



Pictured from left at the ceremony in Galveston, Texas, are Jay Wedman of MEBA, SIU Patrolman Kelly Krick and Kathleen Friel of AMO.



The SIU crewed Bay Towing tug *Aubrey* joins in the festivities in Galveston, Texas.



SIU Oakland Port Agent Duane Akers teamed up with personnel from The Pasha Group for a "Careers in Maritime" event May 22 at San Rafael (California) High School. They addressed a packed room of students; he and the other speakers already have been invited back next year.



Pictured at the National Maritime Day luncheon hosted by the Houston chapter of the Kings Point Alumni Association are (from left, SIU members unless otherwise noted) Capt. Brandon Connor, Mate Miles Hallberg, Mate Amanda Ringo, Capt. Mark Kazin, SIU Port Agent Joe Zavala, SIU Patrolman J.B. Niday, Second Mate Cameron Schroeder, Harris County Board of Pilot Commissioners Chairman Reginald McKamie, Safety Director Kevin Sykes, and chapter President David McNeal.



The Norfolk, Virginia, ceremony took place aboard the battleship *Wisconsin*. Pictured from left are USSMI GM Travis Hansen, Virginia Maritime Association Senior VP Will Fediw, ITF Inspector Bobbi Shipley, SIU Port Agent Mario Torrey, and Hampton Roads Shipping Association President Jeremy Bridges.



The annual National Maritime Day observance in Port Arthur, Texas, took place at the Seamen's Memorial Equatorial Sundial. Teaming up for the 2024 iteration were the Stella Maris Diocese of Beaumont, the Port Arthur International Seafarers Center, the Port of Port Arthur, the Propeller Club Ports of the Sabine and Neches, and the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States. SIU member Fr. Sinclair Oubre (pictured at the podium) led the proceedings and asked CMDR Karima Hantal of the U.S. Coast Guard to read President Biden's Maritime Day Proclamation. The crew of the pilot boat *Port Arthur* later placed a wreath in the Sabine Neches Waterway. After the service, the port sponsored a luncheon featuring remarks by Shelby Avant from MARAD.



Sign up for our text alert  
system to receive the  
latest updates from SIU!

TEXT 'JOIN' TO

412-899-8989

OR SCAN THE  
QR CODE BELOW



## July & August Membership Meetings

Piney Point	Monday: July 8, August 5
Algonac	Friday: July 12, August 9
Baltimore	Thursday: July 11, August 8
Guam	Thursday: July 25, August 22
Honolulu	Friday: July 19, August 16
Houston	Monday: July 15, August 12
Jacksonville	Thursday: July 11, August 8
Joliet	Thursday: July 18, August 15
Mobile	Wednesday: July 17, August 14
New Orleans	Tuesday: July 16, August 13
Jersey City	Tuesday: July 9, August 6
Norfolk	Friday: July 12, August 9
Oakland	Thursday: July 18, August 15
Philadelphia	Wednesday: July 10, August 7
Port Everglades	Thursday: July 18, August 15
San Juan	Thursday: July 11, August 8
St. Louis	Friday: July 19, August 16
Tacoma	Friday: July 26, August 23
Wilmington	Monday: July 22, August 19

Each port's meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.

## Dispatchers' Report for Deep Sea

"Total Registered" and "Total Shipped" data is cumulative from May 15 - June 16, 2024.  
"Registered on the Beach" data is as of June 17, 2024.

Port	Total Registered All Groups			Total Shipped All Groups			Trip Reliefs	Registered on Beach All Groups		
	A	B	C	A	B	C		A	B	C
Deck Department										
Algonac	11	5	1	8	4	1	7	26	8	1
Anchorage	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	3	3	0
Baltimore	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	0
Fort Lauderdale	21	12	5	16	7	6	14	33	15	4
Guam	5	1	1	3	0	0	0	5	3	3
Harvey	5	5	6	5	2	4	3	13	7	5
Honolulu	8	2	0	5	1	0	3	9	3	1
Houston	28	21	6	16	13	5	16	42	28	9
Jacksonville	29	26	8	18	17	6	16	46	33	7
Jersey City	22	4	1	10	6	0	7	34	7	3
Joliet	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	6	3	2
Mobile	5	2	1	0	2	1	0	12	2	1
Norfolk	22	15	9	18	8	7	12	26	19	9
Oakland	8	1	2	6	1	1	6	12	3	3
Philadelphia	3	1	0	3	2	0	0	2	2	0
Piney Point	1	2	0	1	2	0	3	1	2	0
Puerto Rico	4	3	1	3	1	0	3	13	2	2
Tacoma	9	5	1	16	6	1	10	22	10	5
St. Louis	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	0
Wilmington	23	6	2	20	4	2	13	38	14	6
TOTAL	209	116	46	154	79	37	117	348	169	61
Engine Department										
Algonac	5	1	0	6	1	0	2	4	1	0
Anchorage	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
Baltimore	4	2	0	3	2	1	3	6	1	1
Fort Lauderdale	7	4	1	4	4	1	4	11	3	2
Guam	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Harvey	4	4	1	3	2	1	5	4	5	0
Honolulu	1	4	1	2	1	0	1	8	4	1
Houston	11	4	5	9	3	2	3	15	8	7
Jacksonville	18	14	5	10	15	4	16	31	10	3
Jersey City	8	4	0	5	2	0	3	9	6	1
Joliet	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0
Mobile	1	2	1	2	0	0	2	1	4	1
Norfolk	13	9	8	9	7	4	3	17	12	9
Oakland	5	3	2	3	4	3	3	6	1	2
Philadelphia	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	1	2
Piney Point	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	2	2	0
Puerto Rico	7	2	2	5	2	1	1	7	1	1
Tacoma	13	5	0	9	7	2	5	14	4	2
St. Louis	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Wilmington	14	1	4	10	1	4	8	21	5	2
TOTAL	119	61	35	82	58	25	60	164	70	37
Steward Department										
Algonac	4	0	2	3	1	0	1	8	4	1
Anchorage	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Fort Lauderdale	7	5	0	3	3	1	2	12	5	0
Guam	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Harvey	3	3	0	5	3	0	2	3	1	0
Honolulu	7	2	0	4	0	0	0	13	5	1
Houston	12	2	2	9	4	3	5	21	7	5
Jacksonville	18	16	6	10	16	6	14	31	22	8
Jersey City	6	1	2	12	3	0	4	10	2	3
Joliet	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2
Mobile	3	2	0	2	0	0	1	4	1	0
Norfolk	11	14	5	8	12	3	7	19	17	10
Oakland	9	5	1	6	1	0	3	13	8	1
Philadelphia	4	0	0	4	0	0	1	2	0	0
Piney Point	4	2	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	0
Puerto Rico	2	8	3	4	5	1	5	2	10	3
Tacoma	5	5	1	3	4	1	5	11	7	2
St. Louis	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Wilmington	7	6	2	10	6	0	6	20	11	3
TOTAL	105	72	30	89	60	21	59	175	103	41
Entry Department										
Algonac	0	7	12	0	2	6	3	1	8	11
Anchorage	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	0
Baltimore	1	3	2	1	2	3	0	0	1	2
Fort Lauderdale	0	7	12	0	2	9	0	0	9	10
Guam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harvey	2	3	4	0	1	1	1	2	4	6
Honolulu	0	1	8	1	3	3	0	0	2	9
Houston	1	13	13	1	9	7	2	3	18	25
Jacksonville	1	35	54	1	19	35	9	1	54	95
Jersey City	0	12	9	0	4	8	6	0	19	27
Joliet	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	3	2
Mobile	0	1	4	0	1	3	1	0	2	3
Norfolk	0	7	31	0	7	23	7	1	12	48
Oakland	0	3	8	0	4	8	3	0	2	6
Philadelphia	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Piney Point	0	4	8	0	1	9	4	1	3	1
Puerto Rico	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Tacoma	3	10	3	2	5	4	0	4	16	5
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Wilmington	0	10	12	0	8	11	2	2	19	13
TOTAL	9	119	184	6	68	135	39	16	180	266
GRAND TOTAL	442	368	295	331	265	218	275	703	522	405

David Heindel, President  
 Augustin Tellez, Executive Vice President  
 Tom Orzechowski, Secretary-Treasurer  
 George Tricker, Vice President Contracts  
 Dean Corgey, Vice President Gulf Coast  
 Nicholas J. Marrone, Vice President West Coast  
 Joseph T. Soresi, Vice President Atlantic Coast  
 Joe Vincenzo, Vice President Government Services  
 Bryan Powell,  
 Vice President Lakes and Inland Waters

## HEADQUARTERS

5201 Capital Gateway Drive  
 Camp Springs, MD 20746 (301) 899-0675

## ALGONAC

520 St. Clair River Dr., Algonac, MI 48001  
 (810) 794-4988

## ANCHORAGE

721 Sesame St., #1C, Anchorage, AK 99503  
 (907) 561-4988

## BALTIMORE

2315 Essex St., Baltimore, MD 21224  
 (410) 327-4900

## GUAM

P.O. Box 3328, Hagatna, Guam 96932  
 Cliffline Office Ctr. Bldg., Suite 103B  
 422 West O'Brien Dr., Hagatna, Guam 96910  
 (671) 477-1350

## HONOLULU

606 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI 96819  
 (808) 845-5222

## HOUSTON

625 N. York St., Houston, TX 77003  
 (713) 659-5152

## JACKSONVILLE

5100 Belfort Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32256  
 (904) 281-2622

## JERSEY CITY

104 Broadway, Jersey City, NJ 07306  
 (201) 434-6000

## JOLIET

10 East Clinton St., Joliet, IL 60432  
 (815) 723-8002

## MOBILE

1640 Dauphin Island Pkwy, Mobile, AL 36605  
 (251) 478-0916

## NEW ORLEANS

3911 Lapalco Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058  
 (504) 328-7545

## NORFOLK

115 Third Street, Norfolk, VA 23510  
 (757) 622-1892

## OAKLAND

1121 7th St., Oakland, CA 94607  
 (510) 444-2360

## PHILADELPHIA

2604 S. 4 St., Philadelphia, PA 19148  
 (215) 336-3818

## PINEY POINT

45353 St. George's Avenue, Piney Point, MD 20674  
 (301) 994-0010

## PORT EVERGLADES

1221 S. Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316  
 (954) 522-7984

## SAN JUAN

659 Hill Side St., Summit Hills  
 San Juan, PR 00920  
 (787) 721-4033

## ST. LOUIS/ALTON

4581 Gravois Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116  
 (314) 752-6500

## TACOMA

3411 South Union Ave., Tacoma, WA 98409  
 (253) 272-7774

## WILMINGTON

510 N. Broad Ave., Wilmington, CA 90744  
 (310) 549-4001/4002

# Inquiring Seafarer

*This month's question was answered by students at the Paul Hall Center in Piney Point, Maryland.*

**Question: Where is your favorite place that you've traveled during your career as a Seafarer – or, where is somewhere that you're looking forward to traveling to?**



**Tracy Gray**  
*Wiper*

My favorite place that I've traveled is Rota, Spain. It's beautiful; I loved the scenery and the weather. The food was great, and so were the people. I had never been anywhere before and this was my first trip. After that was Crete, Greece and Souda Bay. Both beautiful places.



**Randy Madrid**  
*Chief Cook*

I enjoyed traveling to Belgium and Germany. They were both nice places with nice people. I also loved going to Yokohama, Japan. In Japan, I got to experience the bullet train and I took it to Tokyo. They had a lot of luxury stores and everything there.



**Gerald Hyman**  
*Recertified Steward*

Panama is a beautiful country to visit and there's so much to see there. I'd also like to travel to Australia someday. I hear they have a very nice port and they treat Americans well. I'd like to see the safari there, too.



**Ammar Sailan**  
*Chief Steward*

That's easy: Maldives. I went there on a cable ship. I also enjoyed visiting the port in Gibraltar, Spain, near Algeria. The area we visited had the best museums and lot of ancient history. There were castles, and things like that.



**Jyheir Thompson**  
*Apprentice*

I'd like to travel to Tokyo one day. It looks like a nice place to visit and I've never been before. I did travel to Brazil for one night, though. I really enjoyed the scenery there.



**Ayman Elahi**  
*OS*

One day I want to travel to Venice in Italy. I want to ride in a gondola, drink wine, and try the food there.

## Pic from the Past



The SIU-crewed *Lawrence Gianella* heads to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, for the 2004 iteration of Operation Deep Freeze. SIU crews have supported the annual resupply mission for decades.

# Welcome Ashore!

We pay tribute to our brothers and sisters of the SIU who have recently retired. THANK YOU for a job well done and we wish you fair winds and following seas.

## DEEP SEA

### KAID ADAM

Brother Kaid Adam, 62, signed on with the Seafarers International Union in 1992, initially sailing aboard the *Independence*. He was a deck department member and also worked on shore gangs. Brother Adam upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. He most recently worked with Matson Navigation Company of Alaska and makes his home in Fircrest, Washington.



### MAGDY BALAT

Brother Magdy Balat, 65, started sailing with the SIU in 2005 and first worked on the *Green Ridge*. He shipped in the deck department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Balat last shipped on the *Maersk Detroit*. He resides in Brooklyn, New York.



### REY FARINAS

Brother Rey Farinas, 67, joined the Union in 1989 and first sailed aboard the *Independence*. He upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions and sailed in the engine department. Brother Farinas last shipped aboard the *Alaskan Explorer* and settled in Waipahu, Hawaii.



### EDWARD GALBIS

Brother Edward Galbis, 71, embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 2002 when he sailed on the *USNS Mt. Washington*. He shipped in the engine department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Galbis most recently sailed aboard the *Ocean Gladiator*. He lives in Norfolk, Virginia.



### WALTER GARCIA MARRERO

Brother Walter Garcia Marrero, 65, signed on with the union in 1998. He first sailed aboard the *USNS Pathfinder* and worked in the engine department. Brother Garcia Marrero upgraded on several occasions at the union-affiliated Piney Point school. He last shipped on the *USNS Capella* and is a Houston resident.



### DAVID GRAVES

Brother David Graves, 68, began his career with the Seafarers International Union in 1990, initially sailing aboard the *USNS Algol*. He worked in the deck department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Graves' final vessel was the *Seakay Valor*. He resides in Houston.



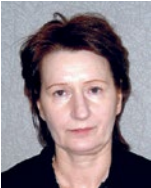
### JOHN GROOM

Brother John Groom, 55, donned the SIU colors in 1991. He first sailed aboard the *Independence* and worked in the engine department. Brother Groom upgraded at the Piney Point school on several occasions. He most recently sailed on the *American Freedom* and lives in Roy, Washington.



### IRENA JANSON

Sister Irena Janson, 69, began sailing with the Seafarers in 2002 and first worked aboard the *Maersk Arizona*. She upgraded on multiple occasions at the Paul Haul Center and shipped in the steward department. Sister Janson's final vessel was the *Pride*. She makes her home in University Place, Washington.



### LLOYD LA BEACH

Brother Lloyd La Beach, 70, joined the union in 1978 and first sailed with Crowley Towing and Transportation. He was a member of the deck department and upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. Brother La Beach most recently shipped on the *Pohang Pioneer*. He resides El Paso, Texas.



### HARVEY OWENS

Brother Harvey Owens, 68, started his career with the SIU in 2008, initially sailing aboard the *Resolve*. He shipped in the steward department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Owens last sailed aboard the *Legend*. He lives in La Grange, North Carolina.



### DENNIS SKRETTA

Brother Dennis Skretta, 68, became a member of the Seafarers International Union in 1978. He first worked on the *Santa Mercedes* and sailed in the steward department. Brother Skretta upgraded at the Piney Point school on numerous occasions. He last shipped on the *Horizon Anchorage* and resides in Seattle.



### GLENN SNOW

Brother Glenn Snow, 69, became an SIU member in 1993. He was an engine department member and upgraded often at the Piney Point school. Brother Snow's first vessel was the *Independence*; his last, the *USNS Pollux*. He makes his home in Beaumont, Texas.



### AMANDA SUNCIN

Sister Amanda Suncin, 71, embarked on her career with the Seafarers in 1981 when she shipped on the *Santa Mariana*. She sailed in the steward department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on numerous occasions. Sister Suncin's final vessel was the *Horizon Anchorage*. She resides in Tacoma, Washington.



## GREAT LAKES

### MICHAEL FAUGHT

Brother Michael Faught, 65, began sailing with the Seafarers International Union in 1978. He initially worked with Michigan Interstate Railway and was a steward department member. Brother Faught upgraded at the Piney Point school in 1981. He last shipped with Luedtke Engineering Company and lives in Manton, Michigan.



### NELS JOHNSON

Brother Nels Johnson, 65, joined the SIU in 1977, first sailing aboard the *Sharon*. He was a deck department member and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Johnson last sailed aboard the *American Spirit* and settled in Arcadia, Michigan.

### PHILIP JOHNSON

Brother Philip Johnson, 66, embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1978. He was a deck department member and initially sailed aboard the *Loc Bay*. Brother Johnson last shipped on the *St. John*. He makes his home in Erie, Pennsylvania.

## INLAND

### JOHN BERTRAND

Brother John Bertrand, 63, joined the SIU in 1986, first sailing with Crowley Towing and Transportation. Brother Bertrand was a deck department member and upgraded at the Piney Point school on several occasions. He last sailed with OSG Ship Management and resides in Winnie, Texas.



### CHARLES BRANCH

Brother Charles Branch, 62, started his career with the Seafarers in 1980. He sailed in the deck department and was employed with G&H Towing for the duration of his career. Brother Branch lives in League City, Texas.



### STEPHEN EICKHORN

Brother Stephen Eickhorn, 71, became a member of the union in 2003. A deck department member, he sailed with G&H Towing for the duration of his career. Brother Eickhorn calls Crystal Beach, Texas, home.

### JAMES RODGERS

Brother James Rodgers, 71, donned the SIU colors in 1978. A deck department member, he first sailed with HVIDE Marine. Brother Rodgers upgraded at the Paul Hall Center in 1981. He was last employed with OSG Ship Management and is a resident of Moorestown, New Jersey.

### JOSEPH RUBENS

Brother Joseph Rubens, 66, became a member of the Seafarers International Union in 1988 when he worked for Crowley Towing and Transportation. A deck department member, Brother Rubens was employed with the same company for the duration of his career. He lives in Huntington Beach, California.

Final Departures

In solemn remembrance, we honor the legacies of these union members who have crossed the final bar. May they rest in peace.

DEEP SEA

BRAD BRUNETTE

Pensioner Brad Brunette, 63, passed away March 17. He signed on with the Seafarers International Union in 1978 when he sailed aboard the *Overseas Natalie*. A deck department member, Brother Brunette last shipped aboard the *Green Cove* in 2012. He became a pensioner in 2023 and settled in Miami Beach, Florida.



GEORGE CARTER

Brother George Carter, 64, died January 16. He joined the union in 1985 and initially sailed aboard the *Aries*. Brother Carter worked in the steward department. He last sailed on the *Liberty Sea* in 1997. Brother Carter resided in Mobile, Alabama.



MARVIN DAVIS

Brother Marvin Davis, 63, passed away March 19. He started shipping with the SIU in 2001 when he sailed aboard the *Courier*. Brother Davis was a member of the steward department and most recently shipped on the *Fisher*. He was a Philadelphia resident.

THOMAS GUTHRIE

Pensioner Thomas Guthrie, 78, died March 31. He began his career with the Seafarers in 1991. Brother Guthrie first shipped on the *USNS Capable* and was a member of the steward department. He last sailed aboard the *USNS Assertive* and retired in 2010. Brother Guthrie resided in Henderson, North Carolina.



THOMAS KLEINE

Brother Thomas Kleine, 64, passed away March 14. He donned the SIU colors in 1989 and first shipped on the *Independence*. Brother Kleine was a steward department member and last sailed aboard the *Marjorie C*. He called Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, home.



AHMED MEFTAH

Pensioner Ahmed Meftah, 81, died March 12. He signed on with the Seafarers International Union in 1967 when he sailed aboard the *Trans Western*. Brother Meftah worked in the steward department. He last sailed aboard the *Santa Mariana* and became a pensioner in 2008. Brother Meftah resided in San Francisco.



LARRY REED

Pensioner Larry Reed, 73, passed away April 7. He started sailing with the union in 1996, initially working aboard the *Stonewall Jackson*. Brother Reed sailed in the deck department and concluded his career aboard the *William Baugh* in 2002. He began collecting his pension in 2015 and made his home in New Orleans.



JUAN RIVAS

Pensioner Juan Rivas, 67, died March 30. He donned the SIU colors in 1970. A deck department member, Brother Rivas first shipped with Michigan Tankers Inc. He last sailed aboard the *Liberty Eagle* and became a pensioner in 2012. Brother Rivas lived in Highlands, Texas.



VICTOR SOARES

Pensioner Victor Soares, 71, passed away March 3. He signed on with the union in 2001 and first sailed aboard the *Maersk Maryland*. Brother Soares primarily sailed in the deck department. He last sailed aboard the *Maersk Montana* before retiring in 2015. Brother Soares lived in Paivas, Portugal.



ALVIN THOMPSON

Pensioner Alvin Thompson, 75, died April 1. He embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1990 when he sailed on the *Dewayne T. Williams*. Brother Thompson was a member of the deck department and last sailed aboard the *Pacific*. He became a pensioner in 2014 and lived in San Antonio, Texas.



GREAT LAKES

WILLIAM TAYLOR

Pensioner William Taylor, 90, passed away April 17. He signed on with the SIU in 1961 and was initially employed with Merritt Chapman and Scott. Brother Taylor last worked with Kiewit Eastern in 1984. He went on pension in 1995 and resided in Redwood, New York.



INLAND

LARRY DEWITT

Brother Larry Dewitt, 64, died April 28. He started sailing with the SIU in 1993. Brother Dewitt worked in the deck department and first shipped with HVIDE Marine. He was last employed by G&H Towing and lived in Vidor, Texas.



EDWARD WHILDEN

Pensioner Edward Whilden, 74, died March 18. A deck department member, he signed on with the union in 1971. Brother Whilden first worked with Mariner Towing. He concluded his career with OSG Ship Management and became a pensioner in 2011. Brother Whilden lived in Ocala, Florida.



NMU

HOWARD BROUSSARD

Pensioner Howard Broussard, 101, passed away December 27. Brother Broussard sailed in the steward department. He last shipped on the *Shirley Lykes* and became a pensioner in 1988. Brother Broussard lived in Beaumont, Texas.



WILMA LANDRY

Pensioner Wilma Landry, 94, died April 5. Sister Landry was a steward department member and last sailed aboard the *Chesapeake Trader*. She began collecting her pension in 1995 and lived in Inez, Texas.

OSCAR LEWIS

Pensioner Oscar Lewis, 96, passed away March 25. He worked in the steward department and last shipped on the *Green Harbor*. Brother Lewis went on pension in 1983 and settled in New Orleans.



ANTONIO OLIVEIRA

Pensioner Antonio Oliveira, 91, died October 19. Brother Oliveira was a deck department member. He last sailed on the *Mormac Sun* and retired in 1988. Brother Oliveira lived in La Coruna, Spain.

ALEXANDER RADETICH

Pensioner Alexander Radetich, 94, passed away April 8. Brother Radetich sailed in the engine department. He concluded his career aboard the *Argonaut* and retired in 1994. Brother Radetich was a resident of Fanwood, New Jersey.



ARTHUR SILVA

Pensioner Arthur Silva, 95, died March 29. A steward department member, Brother Silva last shipped aboard the *Chesapeake*. He retired in 2002 and made his home in East Providence, Rhode Island.



NICHOLAS TAMASHIMA

Pensioner Nicholas Tamashima, 85, passed away March 16. Brother Tamashima sailed in the deck department. He last shipped aboard the *Cape Orlando* before becoming a pensioner in 1998. Brother Tamashima lived in San Francisco.

GILBERT VASQUEZ

Pensioner Gilbert Vasquez, 79, died April 13. Brother Vasquez worked in the deck department and last shipped on the *Cape Horn*. He went on pension in 2005 and settled in Goodyear, Arizona.



# Digest of Shipboard Union Meetings

*The Seafarers LOG attempts to print as many digests of union shipboard minutes as possible. On occasion, because of space limitations, some will be omitted. Ships' minutes first are reviewed by the union's contract department. Those issues requiring attention or resolution are addressed by the union upon receipt of the ships' minutes. The minutes are then forwarded to the Seafarers LOG for publication.*

**ENDURANCE** (TOTE Services, LLC), January 27 – Chairman **Robert Hoppenworth**, Secretary **Michael Miller**, Deck Delegate **Shawanna Haynes**, Steward Delegate **Kejuan Stewart**. Chairman advised crew to watch expiration dates on documents and to renew credentials early when possible. Educational director encouraged members to upgrade at the union-affiliated Piney Point school. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members were reminded to be cautious and not to post information about the ship on the internet. Crew held a special moment of silence for SIU President Emeritus Michael Sacco. Bosun reached out to engineers to fix broken dryer. Steward department was thanked for a job well done.

**MISSOURI EXPRESS** (Marine Personnel & Provisioning), March 18 – Chairman **Billy Hill**, Secretary **Avis Hawkins**, Educational Director **Jetaime Mays**, Deck Delegate **Milton Eligio Estrada**, Steward Delegate **Sonia Pabon Barreto**. Chairman expressed his appreciation for everyone's hard work maintaining and improving the vessel. Educational director provided information to those who want to upgrade at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education. Per steward delegate, SA is not receiving OT for cleaning extra rooms. Crew discussed out-

ages and/or general lack of availability with internet connectivity and also expressed concern about lack of books and TV. Members reported issue with overflowing trash. New washer and dryer and new garbage disposal to be installed.

**INDEPENDENCE** (TOTE Services, LLC), April 7 – Secretary **Gerald Hyman**, Educational Director **Yves Nsuami**, Deck Delegate **Thami Boulabat**. Chairman discussed merchant mariner credential renewals. Secretary encouraged members to upgrade at the Piney Point school. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew requested TVs in every room and new mattresses. Members asked for increases in vacation and pension benefits.

**GEORGE II** (Sunrise Operations), April 28 – Chairman **Glenn Christianson**, Secretary **Ian Schulder**, Educational Director **Elhassene Elkori**, Steward Delegate **Abraham Elsayy**. Chairman and secretary encouraged members to take LNG classes at the Paul Hall Center. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members would like the ability to file for vacation checks for any completed relief. TV service has been restored and crew is very happy with new Star Link Wi-Fi.

**USNS PATHFINDER** (Ocean Shipholdings Inc.), April 28 – Chairman **Kelly Doyle**, Educational Director **Isaac Nugen**, Deck Delegate **Antonio Donald**. Per chairman, ship out of drydock and getting full crew on or around June 15. Current crew should be leaving their hotel and back on the ship by June 17. Educational director encouraged crew to upgrade their skills often at the Piney Point school. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Chairs in crew mess are in the process of getting replaced and crew mess furniture is to be reupholstered.

**AMERICAN FREEDOM** (Intrepid Personnel & Provisioning), May 12 – Chairman **Joshua Mensah**, Secretary **Deitre Jackson**, Educational Director **Felix Garcia**, Engine Delegate **Ricardo Fuentes**. Secretary urged members to upgrade their skills at the Piney Point school. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members requested refrigerators in all rooms and increases in retirement pay.

**SEAKAY VALOR** (Keystone Shipping), May 26 – Chairman **Billy Hill**, Secretary **Marlon Brown**, Educational Director **Kenneth Spivey**, Deck Delegate **Wilfredo Velez-Mendez**, Engine Delegate **Andilisio Castillo Norales**. Chairman praised the steward department for fresh, hot meals and thanked ABs for a job well done.

Educational director encouraged members to take breaks when they can and to stay on top of their documents. New dryer needed and refrigerators still needed in some rooms. Members requested new mattresses and for company to provide transportation to and from ship. Crew reviewed pay for restriction to ship and penalty pay for any work done during cargo watch. They asked for increases in vacation time and for two-hour callout when called for drug testing during off hours. Members also asked for reliefs to get tour of duty after 150 days.

**SEABULK TEXAS** (Seabulk Crew Management), June 1 – Chairman **Jovan Williams**, Secretary **Ronald Davis**, Educational Director **Ahmed Sennain**, Deck Delegate **Rolan Aguilar**, Engine Delegate **Santiago Ruiz**, Steward Delegate **Najeeb Ginah**. Chairman asked crew to be patient while waiting for relief and reminded them to leave clean rooms for oncoming crew. He thanked everyone for working safely every single day. Members were instructed to wear closed-toe shoes during meal hours. Educational director urged crew to renew documents a year in advance, to upgrade at the Paul Hall Center as often as possible and to save up money for retirement. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew requested cost of living increases.

## Know Your Rights

**FINANCIAL REPORTS.** The Constitution of the SIU Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters makes specific provision for safeguarding the membership's money and union finances. The constitution requires a detailed audit by certified public accountants every year, which is to be submitted to the membership by the secretary-treasurer. A yearly finance committee of rank-and-file members, elected by the membership, each year examines the finances of the union and reports fully their findings and recommendations. Members of this committee may make dissenting reports, specific recommendations and separate findings.

**TRUST FUNDS.** All trust funds of the SIU Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters District are administered in accordance with the provisions of various trust fund agreements. All these agreements specify that the trustees in charge of these funds shall equally consist of union and management representatives and their alternates. All expenditures and disbursements of trust funds are made only upon approval by a majority of the trustees. All trust fund financial records are available at the headquarters of the various trust funds.

**SHIPPING RIGHTS.** A member's shipping rights and seniority are protected exclusively by contracts between the union and the employers. Members should get to know their shipping rights. Copies of these contracts are posted and available in all union halls. If members believe there have been violations of their shipping or seniority rights as contained in the contracts between the union and the employers, they should notify the Seafarers Appeals Board by certified mail, return

receipt requested. The proper address for this is:

George Tricker, Chairman  
Seafarers Appeals Board  
5201 Capital Gateway Drive  
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Full copies of contracts as referred to are available to members at all times, either by writing directly to the union or to the Seafarers Appeals Board.

**CONTRACTS.** Copies of all SIU contracts are available in all SIU halls. These contracts specify the wages and conditions under which an SIU member works and lives aboard a ship or boat. Members should know their contract rights, as well as their obligations, such as filing for overtime (OT) on the proper sheets and in the proper manner. If, at any time, a member believes that an SIU patrolman or other union official fails to protect their contractual rights properly, he or she should contact the nearest SIU port agent.

**EDITORIAL POLICY — THE SEAFARERS LOG.** The *Seafarers LOG* traditionally has refrained from publishing any article serving the political purposes of any individual in the union, officer or member. It also has refrained from publishing articles deemed harmful to the union or its collective membership. This established policy has been reaffirmed by membership action at the September 1960 meetings in all constitutional ports. The responsibility for *Seafarers LOG* policy is vested in an editorial board which consists of the executive board of the union. The executive board may delegate, from among its ranks, one individual to carry out this responsibility.

**PAYMENT OF MONIES.** No monies are to be paid to anyone in any official capacity in the SIU unless an official union receipt is given for same. Under no circumstances should any member pay any money for any reason unless he is given such receipt. In the event anyone attempts to require any such payment be made without supplying a receipt, or if a member is required to make a payment and is given an official receipt, but feels that he or she should not have been required to make such payment, this should immediately be reported to union headquarters.

**CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.** Copies of the SIU Constitution are available in all union halls. All members should obtain copies of this constitution so as to familiarize themselves with its contents. Any time a member feels any other member or officer is attempting to deprive him or her of any constitutional right or obligation by any methods, such as dealing with charges, trials, etc., as well as all other details, the member so affected should immediately notify headquarters.

**EQUAL RIGHTS.** All members are guaranteed equal rights in employment and as members of the SIU. These rights are clearly set forth in the SIU Constitution and in the contracts which the union has negotiated with the employers. Consequently, no member may be discriminated against because of race, creed, color, sex, national or geographic origin.

If any member feels that he or she is denied the equal rights to which he or she is entitled, the member should notify union headquarters.

**SEAFARERS POLITICAL ACTIVITY DONATION (SPAD).** SPAD is a separate segregated fund. Its proceeds are used to further its objects and purposes including, but not limited to, furthering the political, social and economic interests of maritime workers, the preservation and furthering of the American merchant marine with improved employment opportunities for seamen and boatmen and the advancement of trade union concepts. In connection with such objects, SPAD supports and contributes to political candidates for elective office. All contributions are voluntary. No contribution may be solicited or received because of force, job discrimination, financial reprisal, or threat of such conduct, or as a condition of membership in the union or of employment. If a contribution is made by reason of the above improper conduct, the member should notify the Seafarers International Union or SPAD by certified mail within 30 days of the contribution for investigation and appropriate action and refund, if involuntary. A member should support SPAD to protect and further his or her economic, political and social interests, and American trade union concepts.

**NOTIFYING THE UNION —** If at any time a member feels that any of the above rights have been violated, or that he or she has been denied the constitutional right of access to union records or information, the member should immediately notify SIU President David Heindel at headquarters by certified mail, return receipt requested. The address is:

David Heindel, President  
Seafarers International Union  
5201 Capital Gateway Drive  
Camp Springs, MD 20746

# World War II Mariners Honored in Normandy

The heroism of U.S. Merchant Mariners in World War II has been recognized with a new memorial overseas.

On June 5 – one day prior to the eightieth anniversary of D-Day – representatives from the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV), including some World War II mariners, helped unveil the new monument at Utah Beach in Normandy, France. The memorial, near the Lone Sailor monument and the Higgins Boat monument, honors the valor and sacrifice of U.S. Merchant Mariners whose actions supported military operations on June 6, 1944. On D-Day, the Allies' armada and invasion forces landing in Normandy created the largest amphibious assault operation in the history of the world.

The SIU and other maritime unions helped fund the new memorial; numerous SIU-crewed ships took part in the D-Day mission.

In a related news release, the AMMV noted, "The Allies' D-Day armada had about 7,000 ships, including 200 U.S. merchant ships that were operated by U.S. Merchant Mariners and U.S. Naval Armed Guard crews. The monument, enshrined on Utah Beach where U.S. troops landed, will display a quote from General Dwight D. Eisenhower, inscribed for all visitors to see. On 8 May 1945, Gen. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the European Theater, said: 'Every man in this Allied command is quick to express his admiration for the loyalty, courage, and fortitude of the officers and men of the merchant marine. We count upon their efficiency and their utter devotion to duty as we do our own; they have never failed us yet and in all the struggles yet to come we know that they will never be deterred by any danger, hardship, or privation. When final victory is ours there is no organization that will share its credit more deservedly than the merchant marine.'"

Participants at the unveiling ceremony included, Dave Yoho, a U.S. Merchant Marine World War II veteran; Charles de Vallavieille, mayor of Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, Normandy, France; Capt. Dru DiMattia, president of the AMMV; and Rita Cosby, award-winning journalist, news anchor, and author.

The plaque for the monument, showing Gen. Eisenhower's quote in English and French and the USMM Atlantic War Zone service medal, was designed by Ian Watts of the AMMV.

"The U.S. Merchant Mariners' heroic dedication to supply troops, ammunition, goods, and vehicles during D-Day enabled the Allies' remarkable success for the invasion of the Normandy beaches," DiMattia stated. "Reinforcement and resupply by U.S. merchant ships in the weeks after D-Day allowed the Allies to push forward into France, which began the end of Nazi conquest, terror, and oppression in war-torn Europe. The American Merchant Marine Veterans salute the U.S. Merchant Marine and all members of the Allies' invasion forces who struck a mighty blow for freedom on D-Day. The new monument unveiled on Utah Beach is a fitting tribute to U.S. Merchant Mariners' service and sacrifices. May their achievements on D-Day and during all of World War II never be forgotten!"



The new memorial at Utah Beach is pictured prior to its unveiling (above, left) and then afterward. The inscription honors the U.S. Merchant Marine of World War II for their role in D-Day.

## New Contract Approved



Seafarers at Crowley-Penn Terminals have unanimously ratified a new three-year contract. The pact features substantial annual wage increases, additional holidays and other gains. It also maintains top-level medical and pension benefits. Pictured from left at the facility in Eddystone, Pennsylvania are members Vernell Cornell, John Harvey, Chris Wiley, Dave Mendez and Dave Dicrecchio, SIU Philadelphia Port Agent Joe Baselice and members Devin Sem, Scott Musick and George Vazquez.

## DIA Report Details Effects of Houthi Attacks on Commercial Shipping

The U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in mid-June released a new report detailing how Houthi maritime attacks have affected international trade supported by an expansion of military capabilities with help from Iran.

The report follows the DIA's February report describing the Houthis' use of Iranian missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles to conduct attacks in the Middle East. The Houthis have conducted dozens of attacks against commercial ships, and they have defied the United Nations and other international organizations that have called for an end to their maritime aggression, the DIA reported.

In a related news release, the agency noted, "DIA assesses the Houthis continue to present a growing threat in the region, and their actions are detrimental to their goal to seek international legitimacy. The report details the harmful impacts of Houthi attacks on numerous countries, and major energy and shipping companies. These attacks have endangered crews, damaged regional security, impeded international humanitarian relief efforts, threatened freedom of navigation, and increased the cost and transit times for commercial shipping."

The agency added, "DIA has released the report as part of ongoing transparency efforts to enhance public understanding of the Defense Intelligence Agency's mission and to provide insights into Department of Defense and national security issues."

The 12-page report is linked on the SIU website.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) on June 20 reported that its forces "successfully destroyed four Iranian-backed Houthi uncrewed surface vessels (USV) in the Red Sea, and two uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) over the Red Sea. There were no injuries or damage reported by U.S., coalition, or merchant vessels."

In a news release, USCENTCOM added, "It was determined these systems presented an imminent threat to U.S. forces, coalition forces, and merchant vessels in the region. These actions were taken to protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S., coalition, and merchant vessels."

Also on June 20, the agency separately noted that its personnel supporting the mission to deliver humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians, re-anchored the temporary pier to the beach in Gaza. The temporary pier "had been relocated to avoid forecasted high seas and to ensure the structural integrity of the pier and safety of our service members. At no time during this event did U.S. troops enter Gaza."

## ARC Adds Starlink to Entire U.S.-Flag Fleet

SIU-contracted American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier (ARC) last month reported that the company "has added Starlink satellite internet technology to its entire American-flagged fleet to help mariners stay connected with loved ones while at sea."

"Our mariners are the most important asset we have," said ARC President and CEO Eric Ebeling. "They put in long weeks at sea and make tremendous personal sacrifices in order to help our military partners move critical vehicles and materials to strategically important regions of the world. This new technology allows ARC's crews to maintain contact with family

and friends ashore while delivering for the American government."

"Wi-Fi has become a necessity for many mariners, rather than a luxury," said a spokesperson for the SIU. "Improving seafarer quality of life is a priority and we are glad to see that ARC is making strides like adding Starlink to the ships they are working on."

Starlink, operated by SpaceX, leverages low-Earth orbit satellites to enable access to high-speed internet connections in remote areas, including aboard ships at sea. Adding this new ability "removes one of the main barriers to life at sea," ARC noted. "It improves

the quality of life for ARC's mariners by enabling communication with loved ones, access to streamed movies, shows, and music, or downloadable e-books," the company added in its news release.

Starting in early 2023, ARC has been adding Starlink to its vessels one by one, finishing installation on its newest vessel, the *M/V ARC Honor*, in February of this year. In addition to supporting the wellness of mariners, the move to add Starlink across the entire ARC fleet will also improve security and communications aboard the vessels, the company stated.

# Paul Hall Center Upgrading Course Dates

Printed below are dates for courses scheduled to take place at the SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, located in Piney Point, Maryland. The QR code connects to a web page with the latest course dates (they may differ from what's printed here, though in most cases the only changes are additions that haven't yet made it into the *LOG*). Seafarers are welcome to contact the admissions office with questions about upgrading courses: (301) 899-0657, [admissions@seafarers.org](mailto:admissions@seafarers.org)

Latest Course Dates



Title of Course	Start Date	Date of Completion
DECK DEPARTMENT UPGRADING COURSES		
Able Seafarer - Deck	September 23 November 4	October 11 November 22
Fast Rescue Boat	August 19	August 23
ENGINE DEPARTMENT UPGRADING COURSES		
Adv. Refer Containers	August 26	September 6
Junior Engineer	September 9	November 1
Machinist	August 26	September 13
Pumpman	September 16	September 20
RFPEW	July 29 August 26 September 23	August 23 September 20 October 18
Welding	July 15 August 19 September 23 October 28	August 2 September 6 October 11 November 15
FOWT	September 23	October 18
STEWARD DEPARTMENT UPGRADING COURSES		
Certified Chief Cook	July 15 August 19 September 23	August 16 September 20 October 25
ServSafe Management	August 12 September 16 October 28 December 2	August 16 September 20 November 1 December 6
Advanced Galley Ops	August 26 November 18	September 20 December 13
Chief Steward	October 7	November 1

Title of Course	Start Date	Date of Completion
SAFETY/OPEN UPGRADING COURSES		
Basic Training Revalidation	August 12 August 16 September 23 September 27 October 28	August 12 August 16 September 23 September 27 October 28
Government Vessels	August 5 September 9 September 30 October 7	August 9 September 13 October 4 October 11
MSC Storekeeper Basic	August 12	August 30
MSC Supply Configuration Mgmt	September 2	September 13
MSC Ship Clip	September 16	September 27
Tanker Ship Familiarization - DL	August 19 August 26 September 30 October 7 October 21	August 23 August 30 October 4 October 11 October 25
Tanker Ship Familiarization - LG	August 12 September 2 September 23 September 30	August 16 September 6 September 27 October 4



## UPGRADING APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Deep Sea Member    ☐ Lakes Member    ☐ Inland Waters Member

*If the following information is not filled out completely, your application will not be processed.*

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Book # \_\_\_\_\_  
Seniority \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Port \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Endorsement(s) or License(s) now held \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a graduate of the SHLSS/PHC trainee program?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No  
If yes, class # and dates attended \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you attended any SHLSS/PHC upgrading courses?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

With this application, COPIES of the following must be sent: One hundred and twenty-five (125) days seetime for the previous year, MMC, TWIC, front page of your book including your department and seniority and qualifying sea time for the course if it is Coast Guard tested. Must have a valid SHBP clinic through course date.

I authorize the Paul Hall Center to release any of the information contained in this application, or any of the supporting documentation that I have or will submit with this application to related organizations, for the purpose of better servicing my needs and helping me to apply for any benefits which might become due to me.

COURSE	START DATE	DATE OF COMPLETION
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
LAST VESSEL: _____	Rating: _____	
Date On: _____	Date Off: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____	

**NOTE: Transportation will be paid in accordance with the scheduling letter only if you present original receipts and successfully complete the course. If you have any questions, contact your port agent before departing for Piney Point. Not all classes are reimbursable. Return completed application to: Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education Admissions Office, Email: [upgrading@seafarers.org](mailto:upgrading@seafarers.org) Mail: 45353 St. George's Ave., Piney Point, MD 20674 Fax: 301-994-2189.**

The Seafarers Harry Lundeborg School of Seamanship at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education is a private, non-profit, equal opportunity institution and admits students, who are otherwise qualified, or any race, nationality or sex. The school complies with applicable laws with regard to admission, access or treatment of students in its programs or activities.

# Paul Hall Center Class Photos



**APPRENTICE WATER SURVIVAL CLASS #908** – Graduated April 26: Napoleon Butler, Brandon Cavitt, Shaun Chan, Frank Chen, Sean Colonnello, Jacob Elliott, Chidiadi Floyd, Josue Herrera Cruz, Tia Jackson, Kirill Massey, Kameran Mitchell, Jamaal Mixson Jr., Maxsim Ousmanov, Albert Proano, Eliot Randall, Chris Rodriguez, Luis Sanchez, Joshua Senquiz, Evan Smith, Avery Sneed, Walter Stockwell, Trevan Summitt and Luis Zayas Rios.



**ADV. REFER MAINTENANCE** – Graduated May 17: Haeven Bautista, Christian Bryant, Aaron Ellis and Kyle Williamson. Instructor Mike Fay is at left.



**BASIC SHIPHANDLING** – Graduated May 17: Carlton Banks, Joseph Bowen, Benigno Gonzales Jr., Jeffery Griffin, Josean Villarrubia, Derek Willis, Seamus Woods and Damon Zschoche.



**CERTIFIED CHIEF COOK (MODULE 4)** – Graduated May 24 (above, both photos. Not all are pictured.): Harrold Gomez, Sarah Gross, Noah Hepburn, Sherman McClain Jr., Dan Monteclaro, Antwon Norris, Karrington Plummer Jr., Aaron Searcy, Asril Syarbaini, Armani Wells and Alexis Williams.



**CHIEF STEWARD** – Graduated May 17 (not all are pictured): Jose Borja, Mark Brooks, Pauline Crespo Guillen, Supattara Inthapanti, Ronda Jackson, Anthony Parks and Ammar Sailan.



**DECK OPERATIONS** – Graduated May 3: Monica Burney, Reyes Gonzalez Jr., Carl Griffin III, Jalon Jones, Justice Marques Da Silva, Henry Middleton III and Ty-rrell Washington.

# Paul Hall Center Class Photos



**GOVERNMENT VESSELS** – Graduated May 17 (not all are pictured): Nathaniel Balos, Hector Caballero, Anthony Caesar, Theodore Cash Jr., Quinsha Davis, Jordon Degraffenreidt, Torrin Frazier, Tracy Gray, Amos Howard, Khadjah Jones, Dexter Manahan, Anton McClendon, Chauncey Mitchell, Abdul-Majed Muther, Anthoine Nichols, Ashlle Norwood, Harry Phillip, Franklin Rodgers Sr., Alexander Rodriguez, Younis Saleh, Samuel Schwimmer and Rochelle Walker.



**MACHINIST** – Graduated May 17: Nicolas Brailsford, Jarvis Carter, Ricardo Escorcia, Damon Johnson and Wilfredo Lopez. Instructor Patrick Coppola is at the far right.



**WELDING** – Graduated April 26: Jevon David, Michael Hickey, Craig Lash II, Matthew McManus and Timothy Resultan. Instructor Chris Raley is at the far right.



**RFPEW (PHASE 1)** – Graduated May 3 (not all are pictured): Jose Abreu Jr., Raymond Barnhart II, Boaventura Barros III, Wilson Bernardez, Tariq Mamudu, Samuel Penn, Chantanique Reid, Cristian Salazar and Collyn Swopes.



**RFPEW (PHASE 3)** – Graduated May 3: Brize Agbayani, Justin Brown, Elon Dancy-Mosley, Jonathan Graham, Naylor Griffin-Taylor, Giveric Henderson, Tavon Spence and Cedric Wallace Jr.



**TANK SHIP FAMILIARIZATION (LG)** – Above (not all are pictured): Mohsen Ahmed, Paris Belcher, Alfie Cicat, Kristara Colson, Deon Daniels, Terren Fields, Daniel Hanback, Jamar Harley, Norman Hook, Carlos Jones, Randy Madrid, Abdul-Majed Muther, Ashlle Norwood, Omar Ortega, Jose Outeiral, Ronaldo Quinones Perez, Nicoll Quinones-Rodriguez, Jaden Radcliff, Jalen Shuman, Tanesha Terrell, James Wynegar III, Yahia Yahia and Jerald Young.

## Apprentices Raise Standard at Arlington Ceremony



Pictured shortly before the ceremony are (from left) SIU Asst. VP Pat Vandegrift, Paul Hall Center Apprentices Evan Smith, Avery Sneed, Luis Sanchez and Eliot Randall, and Paul Hall Center Trainee Commandant John Romer.



Guests and participants gather for the 2024 Memorial Day ceremony in the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser)

Two separate Memorial Day events in the nation's capital included recognition for the U.S. Merchant Marine of World War II. The SIU and the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education (PHC) had the honor of participating in this year's Memorial Day observance May 27 at Arlington National Cemetery. Later that day, representatives from the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and then took part in the traditional parade in town. World War II mariner Dave Yoho served as a grand marshal. U.S. Merchant Mariners of World War II are recognized as veterans; no fewer than 1,235 SIU members lost their lives in the war. Memorial Day is a federal holiday and is the nation's primary annual occasion for honoring veterans who died in service to their country. For this year's event at Arlington, remarks were delivered by

President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Charles Q. Brown. Vice President Kamala Harris also attended the solemn gathering. PHC Apprentices **Eliot Randall**, **Luis Sanchez**, **Evan Smith**, and **Avery Sneed** served as flag bearers. They carried the respective flags for the U.S. Merchant Marine, the SIU, the United States, and the State of Maryland. "I really enjoyed seeing the scope of all the soldiers who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today," Sanchez said. "It was an amazing experience I'll never forget. It put into perspective how meaningful and respected Memorial Day is for the entire country." Smith stated, "Being part of the Memorial Day service at Arlington National Cemetery was an awesome and unique experience. Presenting the American Flag for a presidential speech is a privilege that only comes with being part of a prestigious

and historic organization like the SIU. Attending such a special ceremony in the beautiful Arlington cemetery surrounded by so many decorated individuals reminded me of the important place merchant mariners and the history of the merchant marine has played not only in times of peace but also times of war. I'm very grateful to the SIU for giving me an opportunity to honor fallen sailors and giving me a chance to make my own mark on maritime history." Randall noted, "The Memorial Day event was an honor to be a part of with an incredible team. I got the pleasure of meeting people all over the board, from veterans, family members of those lost, to individuals simply there to educate. This was an event that I am grateful I had the opportunity to be incorporated in and to honor the lives lost and carry on the tradition." AMMV President Dru DiMattia said, "The SIU has done it again! Great representation of our fallen mariners who never made it home."



Paul Hall Center apprentices display the respective flags of the SIU, the U.S. Merchant Marine, the State of Maryland and the United States.



Paul Hall Center apprentices carry flags at the start of the event.



From left, President Joseph Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III, and Joint Task Force - National Capital Region and U.S. Army Military District of Washington Commanding General Maj. Gen. Trevor J. Bredenkamp participate in a Presidential Armed Forces Full Honors Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. This was part of the National Memorial Day Observance. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser)