

Vol. 61, No.1
Spring 2025



The Master, Mate & Pilot

Official Voice of the International
Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots



New MM&P Administration Takes the Helm

Defending the Rights of Mariners: The Seaman's Protection Act

Lawmakers Work to Save Food Aid Cargoes

Holiday Party Photos

The Master, Mate & Pilot

Table of Contents

Vol. 61, No. 1

Spring 2025

From the President

The new leadership team has assumed the helm of our venerable organization. MM&P officials are already fully engaged in the battle to protect and advance the wages and working conditions of every member of our Union.

Feature

Whistleblower statutes can help you protect your license, your livelihood, and your personal integrity.

News Briefs

Lawmakers from farm states try to save Food for Peace program, a major source of cargo for the merchant marine; Hapag Express Class vessels transferred to the West Coast; *Maersk Seletar* Master Jaime Morlett named MLL's Mariner of the Year; aboard the Black Ball ferry *MV Coho*; longtime Norfolk Port Agent Mark Nemergut retires; *Vinik 6* tows the storied Atlantic liner *SS United States* to Mobile; MM&P member Kevin Zapolski honored by Crowley for helping to save the life of a shipmate.

MM&P Health & Benefit Plans

Schedule of 2025 Board of Trustees meetings; visit the new MM&P Plans Member Portal to download important documents and more; deadline to submit your annual verification of pensioner benefits form is fast approaching; annual IRS limitations for 2025.

MM&P Pensioners

2024 Holiday Photos

MM&P Directory

Cross'd the Final Bar

1

2

4

13

16

17

21

24

The Master, Mate & Pilot is the official voice of the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots.
©2025 IOMMP.



The Master, Mate & Pilot (ISSN 0025-5033) is published quarterly by the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots. MM&P Headquarters: 700 Maritime Blvd., Suite B, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1953.

(410) 850-8700
communications@bridgedeck.org
www.bridgedeck.org

Periodicals Postage Paid at Elkridge, MD and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Master, Mate & Pilot*, 700 Maritime Blvd., Suite B, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1953

Don Josberger
Chairman, Editorial Board

Lisa Rosenthal
Communications Director

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

Don Josberger, President
J. Lars Turner, Secretary-Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENTS

Tim Ferrie, Pilots
Jeremy Hope, Offshore Gulf & Government Contracts
Thomas Larkin, Offshore Atlantic
Ed Lulko, Great Lakes & Gulf
Dave Narby, Federal Employees
Keith Poissant, Atlantic Maritime
Daniel Twohig, Pacific Maritime Region
Melany Velleca, Offshore Pacific



About the Cover

President Don Josberger (*center*) and Secretary-Treasurer J. Lars Turner (*far right*) with Vice Presidents Jeremy Hope (Gulf Ports & Government Contracts); Ed Lulko (United Inland Group-Great Lakes & Gulf Region); Tom Larkin (Offshore Atlantic); Keith Poissant (Atlantic Maritime); Tim Ferrie (Pilots); Melany Velleca (Offshore Pacific); Dave Narby (Federal Employees); and Dan Twohig (United Inland Group-Pacific Maritime Region).

-- PHOTO CREDIT DONNA MCCORMICK

Connect With Us!

- Bridgedeck.org
- Communications@bridgedeck.org
- Facebook.com/IOMMP
- YouTube: MastersMatesPilots
- Instagram: bridgedeck
- Twitter: @MMP_Union

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Stability at the Top

Union Brothers and Sisters,

A new administration is now in place and is functioning at full sea speed at Masters, Mates & Pilots. The retirement of Captain Don Marcus and the election results of Dec. 6, 2024, have brought continued stability to our Union.

We are fortunate that the expertise of our members, staff and officials (both new and incumbent) forms an immense pool of talent that provides outstanding abilities for our organization.

I consider the stewardship of our Union to be a sacred trust. It connects us all directly to our founders, who joined together in 1887 to establish the American Brotherhood of Steamboat Pilots. Their fight for safe working conditions is no different from the challenges we face today concerning manning.

The many decades of exemplary leadership of Brother Marcus and before him Brother Brown have laid a firm foundation, which I am honored to continue to build upon to further strengthen our Union.

While the challenges ahead are many, the fact that Masters, Mates & Pilots has been in continuous existence since 1887 gives testament to the endurance of our mission and the quality of our membership. So long as there is a United States Merchant Marine, there will be a need for a Union of ships' officers to safeguard its interests.

That mission is best defined in the preamble to our International Constitution:

We, the members of the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots, for the better regulation of matters pertaining to our industry, for the protection of the lives and property entrusted to our care, for the improvement of our economic status, and for the elevation of our standing in the community and our character as men and women, do hereby prepare and adopt this International Constitution for the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots.

Today, the need for the collective efforts of mariners in achieving these ends is greater than ever before. There can be no question that our character as members and applicants is continually being tested by the arduous and increasingly stressful demands at sea brought upon us daily by our employers.

At Masters, Mates & Pilots, we remain true to these objectives and committed to having a meaningful voice in regulatory matters, to advancing our professional qualifications, and to protecting the lives and property under our care. Our commitment to using our resources to improve our economic status is second to none in the industry.



Legislatively, the SHIPS for America Act and the continuous attacks on Cargo Preference and the Jones Act are examples of the need to remain vigilant and proactive. We are working hand in hand with our legislative office, MIRAID, and we are redoubling our efforts on Capitol Hill to promote and protect the interests of our members.

The existence of the United States Merchant Marine has repeatedly been put at risk during the course of our lives. Recent Supreme Court cases and the NLRB's inability to decide on existing cases have underlined the seriousness of the threats being faced by the American labor movement as a whole.

In challenging times, one certainty will always remain: the need for professional mariners to work together to protect wages, working conditions and industry standards. This year our collective efforts will be needed to successfully negotiate major container ship contracts and modernize work rules.

This is the mission of our great organization. Your President and the rest of the new administration are pledged to continue upholding it.

Faternally,

Don F. Josberger
MM&P International President

Whistleblower Statutes Can Help You Protect Your License, Your Livelihood, and Your Personal Integrity



Gabriel A. Terrasa
MM&P International Counsel

majority of LDOs take this duty seriously, LDOs are constantly under pressure to meet the ever-increasing demands imposed by management, including tighter schedules, decreased resources, increased administrative functions, and shrinking skeleton crews.

In many cases, the result of these increased demands are crews that are insufficiently rested and/or vessels with compromised seaworthiness. More often than not, the casualty in this battle is not life, vessel or the environment, but the LDO's license and livelihood.

The Federal government, through the enactment of laws and regulations, and labor unions, through collective bargaining agreements, have created safeguards to help LDOs meet their obligations.

LDOs, however, are often encouraged, and at times coerced, to ignore these contractual and statutory/regulatory protections. LDOs, for example, are frequently ordered or otherwise compelled to perform non-navigational administrative tasks while standing a watch in violation of their MM&P collective bargaining agreement or encouraged to misreport work/rest hours so that management can justify reduced vessel manning. Even if the pressure is not as direct as management ordering LDOs to adjust their hours, many employers still evaluate LDOs based on their ship's compliance with work/rest regulations—only to then cite or penalize them for “mismanagement” if compliance becomes impossible.

LDOs are also often required to “check” with management before complying with their legal obligation to report marine casualties to the United States Coast Guard. “Stand your ground”

Even before the adoption of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), it has been the sacred duty of Licensed Deck Officers (LDOs) to place the safety of life, vessel and the environment above all else. The adoption of SOLAS and the enactment of enabling laws and regulations, however, made failure to carry out this duty punishable by, among other things, loss of the LDO's license. While the vast

or “protect your license” may come across as condescending platitudes to LDOs who must endure a relatively isolated life at sea, working seven days per week for months at a time; only they understand the awesome, coercive power of management's demands. Only they have made the personal sacrifices necessary to advance their careers at sea.

MM&P stands ready to enforce your contractual rights through the grievance process. LDOs are protected by the National Labor Relations Act and the collective bargaining agreement if management discriminates or retaliates against them for seeking to enforce their contractual rights. Additionally, there are various statutes that protect LDOs for reporting violations of law or regulation to Federal authorities. Most notable is the Seaman's Protection Act, 46 U.S.C. Sec. 2114 (SPA), which provides, in relevant part:

- (1) A person may not discharge or in any manner discriminate against a seaman because -
 - (A) the seaman in good faith has reported or is about to report to the Coast Guard or other appropriate Federal agency or department that the seaman believes that a violation of a maritime safety law or regulation prescribed under that law or regulation has occurred;
 - (B) the seaman in good faith has reported or is about to report to the vessel owner, Coast Guard or other appropriate Federal agency or department sexual harassment or sexual assault against the seaman or knowledge of sexual harassment or sexual assault against another seaman;
 - (C) the seaman has refused to perform duties ordered by the seaman's employer because the seaman has a reasonable apprehension or expectation that performing such duties would result in serious injury to the seaman, other seamen, or the public;
 - (D) the seaman testified in a proceeding brought to enforce a maritime safety law or regulation prescribed under that law;
 - (E) the seaman notified, or attempted to notify, the vessel owner or the Secretary of a work-related personal injury or work-related illness of a seaman;
 - (F) the seaman cooperated with a safety investigation by the Secretary or the National Transportation Safety Board;
 - (G) the seaman furnished information to the Secretary, the National Transportation Safety Board, or any other public

official as to the facts relating to any marine casualty resulting in injury or death to an individual or damage to property occurring in connection with vessel transportation; or

(H) the seaman accurately reported hours of duty under this part.

It should be noted that there is no express geographical limitation to the coverage of the SPA, and that a “person” includes individual officers, directors and others responsible for the unlawful retaliation, who may be found individually liable for the discrimination.

If the LDO prevails in a SPA claim, the LDO may be entitled to reinstatement, backpay with interest, compensatory damages, attorneys’ fees, and punitive damages of up to \$250,000.00.

The SPA protections are more than just “theoretical.” In 2013, MM&P Member Capt. John Loftus was demoted to Chief Mate by Horizon Lines, LLC in part in retaliation for reporting safety violations to the Coast Guard, the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) and management. His reports included concerns about deficient equipment, inoperative valves and fuel systems, and other problems with the vessel.

His last report, weeks before his demotion, expressed concern over his superintendent’s insistence that he immediately perform mandatory drug testing of crew while he was dealing with a severe storm that caused injury to his Chief Mate, necessitating evacuation by helicopter. Capt. Loftus filed a claim under the SPA and was awarded over one million dollars in damages for the unlawful demotion.

In 2021, another MM&P Member who preferred to remain anonymous was terminated by Maersk Line, LLC in part for reporting vessel deficiencies to the Coast Guard that he believed made the vessel unseaworthy. The anonymous Member filed a claim under the SPA and was awarded damages similar to Capt. Loftus.

While the SPA is the most encompassing whistleblower protection for seamen, it is not the only statute available to address retaliation or discrimination for making mandatory or necessary reports to government agencies. Several States have robust statutory schemes to protect whistleblowers. California and Virginia, for example, have whistleblower statutes that may protect LDOs against unlawful retaliation or discrimination.

On February 14, 2025, MM&P Member Capt. Richard VanderLaan filed a complaint in the Superior Court of California, Alameda County, against American President Lines, LLC and other subsidiaries, alleging violations of the California and Virginia whistleblower statutes. Capt. VanderLaan is represented by the firm Altshuler Berzon LLP. Capt. VanderLaan’s counsel, Eileen B. Goldsmith, Esq., explains the allegations as follows:

“The complaint alleges that as a result of APL’s reduction in LDO staffing, the LDOs on an APL containership he captained last year were compelled on many occasions to work longer hours than are permitted by international standards and U.S. Coast Guard regulations. The complaint further alleges that Captain VanderLaan, who commanded the containership, accurately reported these rest period violations to the company and in his logbook that was transmitted to the U.S. Coast Guard. Several months earlier, Captain VanderLaan had also joined other APL captains in signing a letter to the U.S. Coast Guard warning of risks associated with APL’s decision to reduce LDO staffing.

“The complaint alleges that in response to these activities, APL retaliated against Captain VanderLaan by threatening termination, giving the Captain negative performance evaluations, and imposing a Performance Improvement Plan. The complaint alleges that APL’s campaign of retaliation violates California and Virginia law protecting whistleblowers. These state laws provide additional important remedies for LDOs who experience retaliation just for performing their legal duties with integrity. As relief in Captain VanderLaan’s case, we’re seeking the rescission of the retaliatory Performance Improvement Plan and negative evaluations, as well as civil penalties and punitive damages.”

It is important to note that whistleblower protections generally, and SPA rights in particular, cannot be contractually waived. Accordingly, filing a grievance to enforce a Member’s contractual rights often will not preclude the Member from concurrently or subsequently pursuing a whistleblower claim under these statutes. Indeed, in each of the cases highlighted above a related grievance was filed by MM&P. The older cases were taken to arbitration, and Capt. VanderLaan’s grievance has been filed for arbitration.

An LDO’s duty to protect life, vessel and the environment is bigger than any company, job, or organization. Any employer **or individual** who stands in the way of an LDO’s compliance with this sacred obligation may do so at its or their own legal peril.

If you believe you have been retaliated or discriminated against because you made reports to a government agency concerning violations of law, regulation, company policy, or your contract, contact your MM&P area representative for referral to counsel. Protect your license, your livelihood and your personal integrity.

Lawmakers From Farm States Try to Save Food for Peace Program, A Major Source of Cargo for the Merchant Marine

A group of GOP legislators have introduced a bill to move oversight of the Food for Peace Program from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to the Agriculture Department.

USAID oversaw the PL 480 Food for Peace Program, a major source of cargo for US-flag vessels. Under cargo preference law, 50 percent of PL 480 cargo must be carried on American ships.

President Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 20 pausing foreign aid for 90 days. Soon after that, the administration shuttered USAID, dismissed its staff and shifted oversight of the program to the US Department of State, making Secretary of State Marco Rubio the acting administrator.

Now, legislation to move the program to the Department of Agriculture is being sponsored by Rep. Tracey Mann (R-Kansas) and several other members of the House Agriculture Committee. They include the committee's chair, Glenn Thompson (R-Pa.), and Reps. Rick Crawford (R-Ark.), Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), and David Rouzer (R-N.C.).

Mann said in a statement that moving Food for Peace to USDA would allow American producers to serve hungry people with more transparency and efficiency in the use of taxpayer dollars.

"For 70 years, Kansas and American farmers have played an active role in sending their commodities to feed malnourished

and starving populations around the world," Mann said in a statement.

"This gift from the American people is more than food. It's diplomacy and feeds the most vulnerable communities while helping them recognize the freedom, prosperity, and good America can establish across the globe."

Under cargo preference law, 50 percent of food aid cargo must be carried on American ships.

In the Senate, a parallel effort to save the Food for Peace Program is being spearheaded by Kansas Republican Jerry Moran and North Dakota Republican John Hoeven. "The US Department of Agriculture already administers US farmer-based food aid programs and it only makes sense that USDA would oversee the Food for Peace program, as well," Hoeven said in a statement.

Maersk Seletar Master Jaime Morlett Named MLL's Mariner of the Year



Maersk Seletar licensed deck officers Travis Salisbury with Third Mate Nicholas Cassisi, Master Jaime Morlett and Second Mate Ishmael Ocampo.

Maersk Seletar Master Jaime Morlett (far left) has been named MLL's Mariner of the Year. He received congratulations from Chief Mate Travis Salisbury and the other MM&P licensed deck officers sailing aboard the vessel. "Jaime is a problem solver, and the welfare of his crew is first and foremost on his mind," the company said in a statement. "In a workplace where you can feel isolated from the rest of the world, leadership with a personal touch is needed. Jaime is that lodestar."



Hapag Express Class Vessels Head to West Coast

MM&P officials visited the *Colorado Express* and the *Potomac Express* as they made their final calls in the Port of Charleston. Hapag's US-flag vessels have called the Port of Charleston for decades. The Hapag Express Class vessels have now been transferred to the West Coast.



Aboard the *Colorado Express*. (Left to right) Chief Mate Austin Bidwell, Second Mate Richard Manning, MM&P President Donald Josberger, Master William Cumming and Third Mate Joshua Plumb.



Aboard the *Potomac Express*. (Left to right) MM&P Vice President–Gulf Ports & Government Contracts Jeremy Hope, Second Mate Thomas Dugan, Chief Mate Christian Bethlen and Master Brian Kiesel.

MM&P Norfolk Dispatcher Mark Nemergut Retires

Mark Nemergut, who began working as a dispatcher in MM&P's Norfolk Hall in 2009, retired at the end of 2024. His journey with MM&P began on June 15, 1979, when he walked through the doors of the New York Hall to sign up as an applicant.

Mark went on to sail with MM&P offshore and on the Great Lakes, on vessels that included the *SS Monterey*, the *Margaret Lykes*, and the *Green Ridge*, before going to work with American President Lines, where he sailed for 17 years.

"After retiring from sailing in 2009, Mark brought his experience and dedication ashore, taking on the role of Norfolk dispatcher," MM&P Atlantic Ports Vice President Tom Larkin said in a ceremony that took place in the Norfolk Hall in December. To honor his years of service to the membership, Larkin presented him with a framed copy of his original MM&P application from 1979, "a reminder of where it all began."

"Mark, your commitment to this hall and to our members has been unwavering, and I have no doubt that you will continue to support MM&P in the years to come," Larkin said. "On behalf of all of us, thank you for your decades of service and for everything you have done to strengthen this organization."

Peter Petrus, another longtime MM&P member who has been part of the Norfolk Hall team for many years, is now the union's full-time dispatcher and representative in Norfolk.



Peter Petrus, Tom Larkin and Mark Nemergut, who retired after serving as dispatcher in the Norfolk Hall for almost 15 years. To honor his service, Larkin presented him with a framed copy of his original MM&P application from 1979, "a reminder of where it all began."

NEWS BRIEFS (CONTINUED)

Vinik 6 Tows SS United States to Mobile

MM&P members who work at Vinik Marine set out from Philadelphia on Feb. 19 with the historic ocean liner *SS United States* in tow.

The crew of the twin-screw tug *Vinik 6* towed the *SS United States* to Mobile, where it is undergoing remediation before being sunk off the Florida coast as the world's largest artificial reef. The 1,000-foot ship had been moored at Pier 82 in Philadelphia since 1996.

SS United States was built in the early 1950s as an Atlantic liner under the direction of one of America's foremost naval architects. MM&P licensed deck officers worked on board when it was operated by US Lines.

The ship was mothballed in 1969, when jet airplanes ended the dominance of ocean liners.

Operating the 5,700 horsepower rated *Vinik 6* for the storied liner's final journey were Mike Vinik, Charles Corso, Gordon Hubley and Mike Benson. The MM&P Atlantic Maritime Group represents the mariners who work at Vinik Marine.

In Mobile, the ship will spend about a year docked at a recycling facility for remediation, including removal of fuel, loose paint, PCBs and other contaminants.



APL Flags In Last of the Newbuilds

APL flagged in the *President Lyndon B. Johnson*, the last vessel in its year-long fleet renewal program. It is an added vessel to the APL fleet and will be running without an MSP slot. The first MM&P officers to take the conn were Captain Nick Marcantonio, Chief Mate Adam Labrato, Second Mate Graham Herder and Third Mate Jorge Jaime.

During his term as president, Lyndon B. Johnson issued Executive Order #11156, establishing a Maritime Advisory Committee. Its purpose was to consider "such matters of policy and administration of government programs affecting the maritime industry as it deems to be in the public interest, including policies and practices which may be followed by labor, management or the government for strengthening the trade, national defense, manpower and labor relations programs of the maritime industry."

The previous ships to join the APL fleet in 2024 were the *President Grant*, the *President Reagan*, the *President Bush*, and the *President Monroe*.



MM&P Pacific Ports Vice President Melany Velleca visited the ship to congratulate the crew and welcome the new vessel into the MM&P fleet. (Left to right) Chief Mate Adam Labrato, Velleca, Second Mate Graham Herder, Captain Nick Marcantonio and Third Mate Jorge Jaime.

Aboard Black Ball Ferry's *MV Coho*

Black Ball Ferry Line operates the *MV Coho* passenger and vehicle ferry between Port Angeles, Wash., and Victoria, B.C. The company operates the last of the privately owned passenger ships under the US flag in international service. It employs more than 120 people and operates terminals in both cities. Founded in 1818, Black Ball has the longest standing shipping company name in the US. It transports 400,000 passengers and 120,000 vehicles annually and has an estimated annual economic impact of more than \$160 million within the local communities.

“MM&P members working aboard *MV Coho* are a prime example of professionalism in our industry and the high skill level of MM&P deck officers.”

**— MM&P International Secretary-Treasurer
J. Lars Turner**



Aboard *MV Coho*. (Left to right) Chief Mate Greg Poole, Captain Dan Reader, MM&P United Inland Group-Pacific Maritime Region Vice President Dan Twohig and Mate Blake Johnson.

Captain Ben Rowland, arrival Victoria.



Northbound from Port Angeles, Wash. to Victoria, B.C. (Left to right) Chief Mate Greg Poole, MM&P International Secretary-Treasurer J. Lars Turner, Master Ben Rowland and Mate Blake Johnson.

Outbound Victoria Harbor.



NEWS BRIEFS (CONTINUED)

Greetings From *APL Islander*!

Captain Brett Cowan sent photos of the officers and crew of *APL Islander* when the vessel was in drydock in Beihai Shipyard, Qingdao, China, at the end of November.



(Back row, left to right) 1AE Nicholas Webster, AB Abe Krula, Reefer Josh Halterman, Third Mate Tristan Barnett, Second Mate Patrick Tolloti, 3AE Francis Gavin, Chief Mate Sime Masnov, Wiper Ikaika Romero; (Center row) Superintendent Stefan Jonsson, CE Chris Parent, AB Mohamed Ahmed, AB Jay-ar Rezada, AB John Rezada, Third Mate Stefan Schwiesow, AB Kalae Huihui, Cook Lawanda Sloan, ELEC Jeremy Mattarocci, 2AE Thomas Jackson, Captain Brett Cowan; (Front row) Steward Emanuel Spain, ACU Amad Kassem, Bosun Filemu Pule Unutoa, and DJR Jogene Cerezo.



(Left to right) Chief Mate Sime Masnov, Master Brett Cowan, Chief Engineer Chris Parent and 1AE Nicholas Webster.

The MM&P Disaster Relief Fund Is There When Disaster Strikes

The MM&P Disaster Relief Fund stands ready to help MM&P families affected by disasters such as the Los Angeles wildfires.

Please consider making a contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund today. Contributions to the fund are generally tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor.

To contribute to the MM&P Disaster Relief Fund, go to bridgedeck.org and look for Disaster Relief in the menu bar.

If you are an MM&P member who has been negatively affected by a recent disaster, contact your MM&P Area Vice President.

LDOs From ATC and OSG Meet With MM&P Officials

MM&P Secretary-Treasurer J. Lars Turner and President Don Josberger welcomed licensed deck officers Addison Lash (ATC) and Kyle Ouellette (OSG) to the union's headquarters. In January 2024, licensed deck officers at ATC voted to be represented by MM&P. OSG licensed deck officers voted in favor of MM&P representation in October 2024. Lash and Ouellette were on campus to attend the Advanced Meteorology class at MITAGS.



Participants in the Advanced Meteorology class (left to right) Aidan O'Sullivan, Taylor Calisi, Steven Van Horn, John Matichak, Kyle Ouellette, Addison Lash, Patrick Lynch, Jameson Mitchell and Ethan Shogren.

St. Lawrence Seaway Gives Historic Tug to Great Lakes Maritime Academy

The Great Lakes Maritime Academy has officially welcomed a new towing vessel, the *Robinson Bay*, into its fleet. The tug was donated to the school for use as a training vessel by the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

In October 2024, GLMA Superintendent Jerry Achenbach informed the Board of Trustees of the donation, noting that the tug had a historic legacy because its construction in 1958 coincided with other important events in the history of the Lakes.

The Mackinac Bridge was opened in 1957 to connect the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan. Planning for the Poe Lock at the Soo began in 1959, the same year that the St. Lawrence Seaway opened.

The *Robinson Bay* was built in the same year as the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, the Great Lakes freighter that sank in a storm on Lake Superior on Nov. 10, 1975, taking with it all 29 members of the crew.

GLMA has leased a towing vessel for training purposes since 2020.



The St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation has donated the *Robinson Bay* to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy for use as a training vessel.

Greetings from the *MV Kamokuiki*!



The *MV Kamokuiki* Deck Department sent greetings to the MM&P fleet when they were on their way to Pohnpei, Micronesia. (Left to right) AB Thomas Tynan, Bosun Dennis Solijon, AB John Villa, AB Costica Oprisoru, Second Mate Kian Patrick, Captain Matthew Merrill, Third Mate Alexander Unruh and Chief Mate Coleman Rosenberg.

Unions Ask Congress to Restore Safety Committees Eliminated By Administration

MM&P and five other maritime labor organizations have asked lawmakers to take immediate action to reactivate nine maritime safety committees. Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Benjamin C. Huffman issued a memo removing the private industry and maritime labor members of the committees effective the end of January.

“This decision raises profound concerns, especially in light of incidents such as the allision of the *MV Dali* with the Francis Scott Key Bridge,” the unions wrote in a Feb. 18 letter to the chairman and ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. “To ensure the continued safety of US and global waterways, the voices of those who work in the industry must be heard.”

Maritime safety—a core USCG mission—depends in large part on input from the federal advisory committees that the administration has eliminated, the unions wrote. “These committees, composed of individuals with decades of direct, hands-on experience, are essential to safeguarding the future of maritime safety. We urge you to take immediate action to reconvene them and restore the expertise they represent.”

The committees that have been eliminated are:

- the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee (NMSAC), which advises the Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard;
- the National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC), which advises DHS and the Coast Guard on safety and environmental issues;
- the National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (NMERPAC), which advises on matters related to the training, qualification, licensing, certification, and fitness of mariners;
- the National Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (NMEDMAC), which advises on medical certification;
- the National Towing Safety Advisory Committee (NTSAC), which provides advice on shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety;
- the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), which offers recommendations on the safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials in bulk on US waterways;
- the Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee, which advises on matters related to the safety of commercial fishing;
- the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee (GLPAC), which advises on matters related to Great Lakes pilotage; and
- the Maritime Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (MACOSH), which advises the Secretary of Labor and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

The unions sent the letter to Rep. Mike Ezell, chair of the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation and Rep. Salud Carbajal, the subcommittee’s ranking member. It was signed by MM&P President Don Josberger, AMO President Willie Barrere, MTD Executive Secretary-Treasurer Mark Clements, SIU President Dave Heindel, TTD President Greg Regan and MEBA President Adam Vokac.

Washington State Ferries Welcomes New Apprentices

A select group of future Washington State Ferry deck officers began their two-year educational journey at MITAGS in January. The 12 participants—chosen from over 300 applicants—have been awarded a full scholarship to the MITAGS Maritime Apprenticeship Program.

Over the course of the next 24 months, these mariners-in-training will divide their time between classroom and simulator courses at MITAGS-West in Seattle and work experience on deck and in the wheelhouses of Washington State ferries underway.

WSF Director Steve Nevey and members of his senior staff met with the new apprentices on their first day of training. He spoke of the productive relationship that the ferry system has forged with MITAGS as he welcomed the group to the WSF team.

The scholarship program began in 2024. This is the fourth group of WSF apprentices to be trained by MITAGS and the second to receive full training scholarships.

The MITAGS Maritime Apprenticeship Program offers the fastest track in the industry to become a credentialed licensed deck officer for those who want to work on the bridge of a ferry, a tug or a Great Lakes vessel. Even those without prior maritime experience who graduate from the program can obtain a Coast Guard-issued Mate's license in just over two years.

In addition to training new personnel during the two-year WSF apprenticeship program, MITAGS has also conducted a series of six-month AB-to-Mate programs for the ferry system. Mariners with several years of sea time who graduate from the AB-to-Mate program acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to sit for an Unlimited Inland Mate's license.

To learn more about the Marine Apprenticeship Program and the AB-to-Mate Program, go to www.mitags.org and click on "Programs."



WSF Director Steve Nevey and members of his senior staff met with the new apprentices in January. As he welcomed them to the WSF team, Nevey spoke of the productive relationship that the ferry system has forged with MITAGS.



The participants in the MITAGS Maritime Apprenticeship Program have been awarded a full scholarship.

Participants in January MED-Pic Class

MM&P members and two interns from Mass Maritime attended a Medical Person-in-Charge class at MITAGS in January. *(Left to right)* Evan Nolan, John Prose, Christian Ranosa, and Mass Maritime interns Isaiah Cruz and Rowan McLoughlin work their magic on a few sleepy patients.



NEWS BRIEFS (CONTINUED)

MM&P Member Honored by Crowley for Helping to Save the Life of a Shipmate

Kevin Zapolski has received an award from Crowley for helping to save a fellow crewmember who had fallen into the water while the *Potomac Express* was docked at the Garden City Terminal in Savannah.

Zapolski, who was sailing as second mate, was off duty and heading ashore when he met joining crewmember Kenneth Ward John and volunteered to help him carry his bags up the gangway. After Zapolski had carried the first couple of bags onto the ship, he turned around to help with the rest but could no longer see his shipmate on the dock. Then he heard splashing and a cry for help. He looked into the water and saw John hanging onto a fender between the dock and the vessel.

Zapolski threw him a life ring and provided support to help keep him afloat, while at the same time coordinating the rescue operation with emergency medical personnel and the terminal.

“His proactive leadership was instrumental in securing and stabilizing the crewmember in the water and organizing his safe retrieval,” said *Potomac Express* Master Hedi Marzougui. “Through his courage and quick thinking, he has set a powerful example.”

Crowley presented Zapolski with its TOPS Award in appreciation of his “outstanding performance and for demonstrating the Crowley values of integrity and drive.”

“His selflessness and professionalism are deeply valued by the entire team,” the company said in a statement.



Second Mate Kevin Zapolski (left) with oncoming Second Mate Thomas Dugan and *Potomac Express* Master Hedi Marzougui. Zapolski’s “selflessness and professionalism are deeply valued by the entire team,” the company said in a statement.



Crowley presented Zapolski with its TOPS Award in appreciation of his “outstanding performance and for demonstrating the Crowley values of integrity and drive.”



MM&P Charleston Representative John Livingston congratulates Kevin Zapolski.

Masters, Mates & Pilots Plans



Administrator's Column

PATRICK MCCULLOUGH

Schedule of Board of Trustees Meetings

The first Board of Trustees meeting for 2025 is scheduled to take place on March 4-5, 2025. In the next edition of The Master, Mate & Pilot, I will summarize some of the actions taken by the Trustees at their meeting.

Important Reminders

Please contact an MM&P Health & Benefit Plan advisor if:

- your address has changed;
- you have been legally separated or divorced; or
- your spouse is working and is now covered by that employer's health benefit program.

And please remember:

- report any accidents aboard ship to the Plan Office;
- once you retire and are eligible for Medicare, you must take Medicare Part A and Part B;
- you must submit a copy of your Medicare card to the Plan Office;
- dependent children over the age of 19 must have their Adult Dependent Form on file with the Plan Office to be covered under the Health & Benefit Plan.

For participants who submit health claims for reimbursement of what they have paid.

If you submit a claim for reimbursement of what you have paid, please remember that the information you give us has to include the following: member's name, a receipt proving payment, itemized bill from the provider with the provider's name, diagnosis code, CPT code, amount for each code, and the person who was seen.

When you provide this information, we can process your claim in an efficient manner. Please remember to keep a copy for your file.

Health and Benefit Accident Form

When claims come into the Plan Office, sometimes they have accident codes. If this is the case, the Plan must provide you with an Accident Description Form. In order for your claim to be processed, this form needs to be completed in a timely manner; otherwise, we will not be able to process the claim, and your provider might start to bill you directly. I am sorry but we cannot accept a telephone call explaining what happened: We need this form completed.

NEW – Plan Office - Member Portal

You Can Download Your Explanation of Benefits Statements on Your Own Through the MM&P Plans Member Portal

The Plan Office recently announced the launch of the new **MM&P Plans Member Portal**, designed with your needs in mind.

The portal gives you quick and easy access to essential tools and information – all in one place.

With the new portal, you can:

- View your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements and your Eligibility status;
- Access your Vacation Computation Sheets;
- Find and download important documents, whenever you need them.

And this is just the beginning: More features and enhancements are on the way to make your experience even better.

To explore the portal, visit members.mmpplans.com and click the Sign-Up button.

If you encounter any issues, send an email to HELP@mmpplans.com, or call 410-850-8638.

Masters, Mates & Pilots Plans

Pension Plan-Adjustable Pension Plan

Annual Verification of Pensioner Benefits

To safeguard pension benefits for all participants and their qualified spouses, as they have over the past few years, the Trustees require all pensioners to verify on an annual basis that they have received their pension benefits for the previous year. The annual verification of pensioner benefits form does not have to be notarized this year so please sign the form and return your form to the Plan Office as soon as possible.

Please be advised that the Plan needs to receive this form, properly completed, by the time you are scheduled to receive your **May** pension benefit payment. We will have to withhold that benefit payment, and all future payments, until the properly completed form is received. If you have any questions, please contact the Plan Office benefit advisor at 410-850-8625 or 410-850-8636.

Pension Plan

Pension Plan Missing Participants

The Plan has been trying to get in touch with the following participants, and they have not responded to the Plan.

2020 Annual Pension Confirmation Forms Needed for Plan Year 2019

John Moralis
Dolores Hoffman

2022 Annual Pension Confirmation Forms Needed for Plan Year 2021

Ray Friis*
Joanne Gray*
Richard Mercer*
Julius Perkins
Susan Vanhorne*
Ruby Weimer

2023 Annual Pension Confirmation Forms Needed for Plan Year 2022

Jerry Androes*	Mamie Markle**
Marlinda Atkinson	Steven Morgan*
Barbara Curtiss**	Rosalind Utterback*
Dennis Lozeau*	Constantinos Vafiades

2024 Annual Pension Confirmation Forms Needed for Plan Year 2023

Richard Blake*	Aaron Hairston*
Joseph Bourell*	Donald Jacoby*
Kevin McKinley	Philip Raymond*
Carole Carbonella	Maria Valentin
Melanie Clovis*	Margaretha Van Pietersom
Patricia Cosky	

*These individuals were merged into the Pension Plan from the Northwest Marine Retirement Trust Plan.

**These individuals are survivors that were merged into the Pension Plan from the Northwest Marine Retirement Trust Plan.

Earnings Limitations for Pensioners and Spouses Under 65 for the 2024 Calendar Year

I would like to remind pensioners and spouses under age 65 about the MM&P Health Plan Earnings Limitations for calendar year 2024. In December 2023, the Plan mailed an earnings letter to all affected participants and dependents with an affidavit that must be returned to the Plan Office. If you have not yet returned the affidavit, it is advised that you complete and return it as soon as possible.

Increase in Pensioners Earnings Limitation Jan. 1, 2025

The Trustees last year agreed to change the Plan rules to increase the Plan's pensioner annual earnings limitation, effective Jan. 1, 2024, to \$45,000. Effective Jan. 1, 2025, pensioners who are under 65 and who have retired under the MM&P Pension Plan with 20 or more years of pension credit, along with their dependents under 65 who are employed, will be able to receive annual earnings of up to \$46,000 without losing their health coverage under the Plan.

Individual Retirement Account Plan, Pension Plan and Adjustable Pension Plan

Annual IRS Limitations for 2025

For your reference, we have listed below the Internal Revenue Service limitations for 2025. The defined benefit plan limits listed below apply only to participants in the Offshore Pension Plan and/or Adjustable Pension Plan. The 401(k) limits apply only to members whose collective bargaining agreements provide for IRAP/401(k) participation.

IRS Limitations for 2025

	2025	2024
Maximum Annual 415 Payout at Age 62 From a Defined Benefit Plan	\$280,000	\$275,000
Maximum Annual Contribution to an Individual's Defined Contribution Account Under 415(c)	\$ 70,000	\$ 69,000
Maximum Effective 401(k) Deferral	\$ 23,500	\$ 23,000
401(k) Catch-Up Limit-Age 50 and Older	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
New Super Catch-up for Age 60-63	\$ 11,250	N/A
Maximum Amount of Annual Compensation That Can Be Taken Into Account for Determining Benefits or Contributions Under a Qualified Plan	\$350,000	\$345,000
Wage Base:		
a) for Social Security Tax	\$176,000	\$168,600
b) for Medicare	No Limit	No Limit

Please note, as of January 2013, individuals with wages/earned income of more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married couples filing jointly) pay an additional 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes. This Medicare surcharge is paid along with annual income taxes.

PENSIONERS



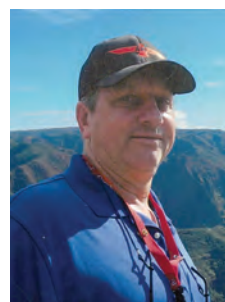
Alice M. Andrzejewski, worked for the MM&P Plan Office in many positions for 41 years.

Russell Ranum, shipping out of West Coast ports. He last sailed for American Heavy Lift as first assistant engineer aboard the *AHL Downing*.

Douglas W. Jones, shipping out of East Coast ports. He last sailed for Matson Navigation as third mate aboard the *Maunalei*.

Leslie Calhoun, worked for Flik Restaurant at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies.

Dianna L. Hand, shipping out of West Coast ports. She last sailed for Matson Navigation as master of the *MV RJ Pfeiffer* in the Alaska trade.



Mark P. Michals, shipping out of West Coast ports. He last sailed for American President Lines as third mate aboard the *President Eisenhower*.

Ely Legaspi, shipping out of West Coast ports. He last sailed for Horizon Lines as second mate aboard the *USNS Mary Sears*.

William L. Palmer III, shipping out of East Coast ports. He last sailed for Matson Navigation as master of the *Lurline*.



Jean Mencik, worked for the Plan Office for 10 years.

Wesley R. Wilson, shipping out of West Coast ports. He last sailed for American President Lines as chief mate aboard the *Islander*.



Holiday Celebrations in the Halls

MM&P members, their families, and friends celebrated the holidays in union halls across the country in December. Many thanks to those who submitted photos of the festivities for publication in The Master, Mate & Pilot. Best wishes to all in 2025.



Boston: Sam Carey, Stick Nolan, Tom Larkin, Sean Gingras, Don Josberger, Jeremy Hope, Don Marcus, Ron Colpus, Tom Sullivan, Jonathan KomLosy and Jim Brennan.



Seattle: Linsey Knight and Kate Jansone.



Honolulu: Chris Woodward and Doug Adriance.



Seattle: Dave Brusco and Lars Turner.



Seattle: Gene Hoehn and Joe Waldera.



Oakland: Kip Carlson and Scott Adams.



Seattle: Rick Pietrusiak, Kirsten Wilhelm and Gene Hoehn.



Boston: Shane Murphy, Cash Murphy and Tom Sullivan.



Seattle: Todd Silver, Marine Waterman, Dan Twohig and Scott Salo.



Seattle: Vince O'Halloran, Don Marcus, Katherine Sweeney, Kevin Coulombe, James Herrin and Chuck Lund..



Boston: Paul Costabile, Peter Fritz, Ron Colpus and Laura Colpus.



Los Angeles/Long Beach: Dan Tripp and Goody Walowit.



Seattle: Melany Velleca, Dan Twohig and Ali Vekich..



Los Angeles/Long Beach: Mike Gruninger and Melany Velleca.



Oakland: Antonio Amaltano, Nick Sorber, Dan Twohig and Sly Hunter.



Honolulu: Dianna Hand, Randy Swindell and Tim Clearwater.



Seattle: Chris Kluck, wife Erin and son Kaspar, Lars Turner and daughter.



Los Angeles/Long Beach: West Wilson with wife Charlotte and kids, Austin and Jack.



Boston: Jack Boak, Tom Sullivan Steve Kanchuga and Don Marcus.



New York/New Jersey: Kevin Poissant, Tom Larkin, Brian Bermudez and Conor McAuliffe.



Oakland: Taelson Larrow, Gian Papio, Seine Kapsiak and a friend, Carlton Bartlett and Brian Inocencio.



Los Angeles/Long Beach: Scott Walker and Antonio Amaltano.



Norfolk: Sam Osgood, Steve Miller, John Little, Larry McCabe, Michelle McCabe, Patrick Todd Christian and his wife and Jessica Osgood.



New York/New Jersey: Nicholas Racioppi, Michael Duque, Hayden Coyne, Tom Larkin, Don Josberger, Natasha Tribus, Ruby Redmond and Kimiko Carrington.



Norfolk: Dave Ryan, Charles (Mike) Spradlin, Pete Petrulis and Kimberlie Petrulis with friends from Military Sealift Command.



Los Angeles/Long Beach: Aaron Weiner, Randy Ruple, John Boruch and Thomas Bacalja.



New York/New Jersey: Ana Victoria, Tim Forsyth, Michael Clifford and his wife Amanda.



Seattle: Christian Omdal, Michael Lee and Pat Ninburg.



Boston: Don Josberger, Fintan Callinan and Don Marcus.



Honolulu: Lars Turner, Dianna Hand, Melany Velleca and Randy Swindell.



Los Angeles/Long Beach: Jorge Jaime and Goody Walowit.



Boston: Matt Gallagher, Rudy Normann, Stick Nolan and Sam Carey.



Oakland: Dan Twohig, Milt Merritt, and Don Marcus.



Honolulu: Randy Swindell, Lars Turner, Jen Bono, Freedom Dennis, Dianna Hand and Chris Woodward.



Oakland: Lars Turner, Melany Velleca, Nick Sorber, Dan Twohig, Don Josberger, Willie Adams, Veronica Schaible and Don Marcus.



Norfolk: Larry Aasheim, Dennis Houghton, Robert Massenburg and Tom Larkin.



Seattle: Austin Renfro, Noah Barto and Abigail Edelman.



Seattle: Darrell Young, Charles Black and Christian Omdal with friends and family.



Honolulu: Happy holidays from MM&P members and friends!



Los Angeles/Long Beach: Melany Velleca and Catherine Suñ cool.



Seattle: Rick Petrusiak, Greg Walsh, Terri Mast and Don Marcus.



New York/New Jersey: Douglas Nemeth, James McAfee, John Johnson, Rich May and John Moustakas.



Boston: Tom Larkin, Don Marcus, Jonathan KomLosy and Sean Gingras.



New York/New Jersey: Bob Anderson, Tim Ferrie, Bill Mack, Morgan McManus, Tom Larkin and Douglas Nemeth.



Seattle: Waylon Roberts, Lars Turner, Gene Meyer, Dan Twohig, Ali Vekich.



New York/New Jersey: Mohammad Hossain, Brian Bermudez, Ishmael Ocampo and Conor McAuliffe.



New York/New Jersey: Anthony Turzio, Don Josberger, Tim Ferrie, Tom Larkin and Keith Poissant.

Aboard the Horizon Spirit: Holiday greetings from Third Mate Kyra Moon, Captain Ra'elk Shahbin, Chief Mate Coleman Rosenberg and Second Mate Aaron Weiner.



Directory of MM&P Offices

International Headquarters

700 Maritime Blvd., Suite B
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1953
Phone: 410-850-8700
Fax: 410-850-0973
www.bridgedeck.org

International Officers

Donald F. Josberger
President
410-850-8700 ext. 122
president@bridgedeck.org

J. Lars Turner
Secretary-Treasurer
410-850-8700 ext. 116
sec-treas@bridgedeck.org

Steven M. Miceli Jr.
Director of Operations/Chief of Staff
410-691-8149
smicelijr@bridgedeck.org

Roger Lash
International Representative
410-691-8142
rlash@bridgedeck.org

International Comptroller

Margaret Schanne
410-691-8134
mschanne@bridgedeck.org

Communications Director

Lisa Rosenthal
410-691-8146
communications@bridgedeck.org

IT

IT@bridgedeck.org

Legal Department

Gabriel Terrasa
International Counsel
410-691-8148
gterrasa@bridgedeck.org

Jennifer Stair
Associate International Counsel
410-691-8178
jstair@bridgedeck.org

Membership

410-850-8700 Option 5
membership@bridgedeck.org

MM&P Women's Caucus Committee

410-691-8194
WomensCaucus@bridgedeck.org

Mental Health Resources Committee

Miriam Anthony, Chair
manthony@bridgedeck.org

MM&P Health & Benefit, Vacation, Pension, JEC and IRAP Plans

Patrick McCullough
Administrator
MM&P Plans
700 Maritime Blvd., Suite A
Linthicum Heights, MD
21090-1996
Phone: 410-850-8500
Fax: 410-850-8655
Toll-Free: 1-877-667-5522
pmccullough@mmppplans.com
Hours: Monday – Friday
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM ET

Atlantic Maritime Group

Keith Poissant
Vice President
570 Broad Street, Suite 701
Newark, NJ 07102
Direct: 201-830-3409
Cell: 973-420-0492
Fax: 201-963-5403
kpoissant@bridgedeck.org

Paulina Trzepacz
Representative
Phone: 201-830-3406
ptrzepacz@bridgedeck.org

Anthony Turzio
City Representative
Phone: 646-261-6662
aturzio@bridgedeck.org

Federal Employees Membership Group

David W. Narby
Vice President
Executive Office
MM&P Headquarters
700 Maritime Blvd., Suite B
Linthicum, MD 21090-1953
dnarby@bridgedeck.org
410-850-8700

Randi Ciszewski
Government Fleet Representative
& CNO Pilot Representative
MM&P Headquarters
700 Maritime Blvd., Suite B
Linthicum, MD 21090-1953
Cell: 202-679-7594
Fax: 732-527-0829

Offshore Membership Group

Thomas Larkin
Vice President - Atlantic Ports

Jeremy Hope
Vice President - Gulf Ports &
Government Contracts

Melany Velleca
Vice President - Pacific Ports

Boston

Ron Colpus
Atlantic Ports Coast Agent

Thomas Sullivan
Representative
Marine Industrial Park
12 Channel St., Suite 505
Boston, MA 02210-2333
Phone: 617-671-0769
Fax: 617-261-2334
boston@bridgedeck.org

Charleston

John Livingston
Representative
1481 Tobias Gadson Blvd., Suite 2C
Charleston, SC 29407-4794
Phone: 843-766-3565
Fax: 843-766-6352
charleston@bridgedeck.org

Honolulu

Randy Swindell
Representative
521 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste 254
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-523-8183
Fax: 808-538-3672
honolulu@bridgedeck.org

Houston

**Mary Beth Baker / K.C. Marks /
Lisa Stringer**
Dispatchers
13850 Gulf Freeway, Ste 250
Houston, TX 77034
Phone: 281-464-9650
houston@bridgedeck.org
Hours: Monday-Friday — 0900-1500

Los Angeles/Long Beach

Wendy Karnes
Representative
533 N. Marine Ave., Ste A
Wilmington, CA 90744-5527
Phone: 310-834-7201
wkarnes@bridgedeck.org

Miami/Fort Lauderdale

Andrea Fortin/Maike Coan
Dispatchers
3081 East Commercial Blvd., Suite 100
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33308
Phone: 954-946-7883
pompano@bridgedeck.org

New York/New Jersey

Thomas Larkin
Vice President-Atlantic Ports

Cole Ridgeway
Dispatcher

Ana Victorio
Administrative Assistant
570 Broad Street, Ste 701
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 201-963-1900
Fax: 201-963-5403
tlarkin@bridgedeck.org
nynj@bridgedeck.org

Chelsea Patterson
Women's Caucus Committee
East Coast Liaison
Phone: 917-838-3107
cpatterson@bridgedeck.org

Norfolk, Va.

Peter Petrus
Representative
Interstate Corporate Center, Bldg 8
6353 Center Dr., Ste 200
Norfolk, VA 23502
Phone: 757-489-7406
norfolk@bridgedeck.org

Oakland

Melany Velleca
Vice President - Pacific Ports

Veronica Schaible
Representative
315 Broadway, Second floor
Oakland, CA 94607
Phone: 510-808-7068
Fax: 510-808-7067
mvelleca@bridgedeck.org
vschaible@bridgedeck.org

Seattle

Kirsten Wilhelm
Representative
15208 52nd Ave. South, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98188
Phone: 206-441-8700
Fax: 206-448-8829
kwilhelm@bridgedeck.org

Tampa

Jeremy Hope

Vice President – Gulf Ports &
Government Contracts

Laura Cenkovich / Ted Dohrman/

Stephen Procida

Representatives
829 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Suite 248
Tampa, FL 33603
Phone: 813-247-2164
Hours: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM ET
jhope@bridgedeck.org
tampa@bridgedeck.org

Pilot Membership Group

Timothy J. Ferrie

Vice President
201 Edgewater St.
Staten Island, NY 10305
Phone: 718-448-3900
Fax: 718-447-1582
tferrie@bridgedeck.org

East Coast Regional Rep.

John C. Traut

Association of Maryland Pilots
3720 Dillon St.
Baltimore, MD 21224
Phone: 410-336-1731
jctraut1@msn.com

Gulf Coast Regional Rep.

Kristi Taylor

203 Deerwood Glen Drive
Deer Park, TX 77536
Phone: 713-645-9620
ktaylor@houston-pilots.com

West Coast Regional Rep.

Zachary Kellerman

Pier 9, East End
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: 415-203-2564
zkellerman@bridgedeck.org

Alaska Marine Pilots

David Arzt

President
P.O. Box 920226
Dutch Harbor, AK 99603
Phone: 907-359-1240
pilotdesk@ampilots.com

Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilots

Forrest Albrecht

President
P.O. Box 2767
Corpus Christi, TX 78403
Phone: 361-884-5899
Fax: 361-884-1659

Associated Branch Pilots

Michael Miller

President
3813 N. Cswy Blvd., Ste 100
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-831-6615

Association of Maryland Pilots

Eric Nielsen

President
3720 Dillon St.
Baltimore, MD 21224
Phone: 410-276-1337
Fax: 410-276-1364
president@mdpilots.com

Biscayne Bay Pilots

Geoffrey Pool

Chairman
2911 Port Blvd.
Miami, FL 33132
Phone: 305-374-2791
Fax: 305-374-2375

Boston Pilots

Richard Stover

President
256 Marginal Street, Bldg 11
East Boston, MA 02128
Phone: 617-569-4500
Fax: 617-569-4502

Canaveral Pilots Association

Ben Borgie

Sean Morrissey

Co-Chairmen
Box 816
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920
Phone: 321-783-4645
TheCanaveralPilots@msn.com

Charleston Branch Pilots Assn.

W. Crayton Walters

6 Concord St.
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone: 843-577-6695
Fax: 843-577-0632

Columbia River Bar Pilots

Dan Jordan

Administrative Pilot
100 16th St.
Astoria, OR 97103-3634
Phone: 503-325-2641

Columbia River Pilots

Christopher D. Eckardt

MM&P Delegate

Jeremy Nielsen

President
13225 N. Lombard
Portland, OR 97203
Phone: 503-289-9922

Coos Bay Pilots Association

George Wales

President
686 North Front St.
Coos Bay, OR 97420-2331
Phone: 541-267-6555
Fax: 541-267-5256

Crescent River Port Pilots Assn.

E. Michael Bopp

President
2640 Ridgelake Drive
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-392-8001
Fax: 504-392-7598
www.crescentpilots.com

Hawaii Pilots Association

Sinclair Brown

President
Pier 19-Honolulu Harbor
P.O. Box 721
Honolulu, HI 96808
Phone: 808-532-7233
Fax: 808-532-7229
www.hawaiipilots.net

Houston Pilots

Clint A. Winegar

Presiding Officer
203 Deerwood Glen Drive
Deer Park, TX 77536
Phone: 713-645-9620

Hudson River Pilots Association

Kevin Mullins

President
201 Edgewater Street
Staten Island, NY 10305
Phone: 914-819-8677

Key West Bar Pilots Association

Alejandro Gonzalez

P.O. Box 848
Key West, FL 33041
Phone: 305-296-5512
Fax: 305-296-1388

Mobile Bar Pilots

Jason A. Comer

President
P.O. Box 831
Mobile, AL 36601
Phone: 251-432-2639
Fax: 251-432-9964

Northeast Marine Pilots

Richard Astles

243 Spring St.
Newport, RI 02840
Phone: 401-847-9050
Toll Free: 1-800-274-1216

Penobscot Bay & River Pilots Association

David Gelinas

President
Skip Strong
Vice President
18 Mortland Road
Searsport, ME 04974
Phone: 207-548-1077
Fax: 207-548-1078
pilots@penbaypilots.com

Pilots' Association for the Bay & River Delaware

David Cuff

President
800 S. Columbus Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Phone: 215-465-8340
Fax: 215-465-3450

Port Everglades Pilots Association

Brendon P. McDonnell

Travis. M. Diemert

Co-Directors
P.O. Box 13017
Port Everglades, FL 33316
Phone: 954-522-4491

Puget Sound Pilots

Ivan Carlson

2003 Western Ave. - Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98121
Phone: 206-728-6400
Fax: 206-448-3405

Sabine Pilots

Andrew Guidry

Presiding Officer
2605 Jimmy Johnson Blvd.
Port Arthur, TX 77640
Phone: 409-722-1141
Fax: 409-962-9223
www.sabinepilots.com

San Juan Bay Pilots

Stephen Rivera

President
P.O. Box 9021033
San Juan, PR 00902-1033
787-722-1166

St. Andrew Bay Pilots Association

Zach Condon

President
P.O. Box 1389
Panama City, FL 32402
Phone: 781-738-1825
admin@standrewbaypilots.com

St. Johns Bar Pilot Association

Barrie Snyder

President
4910 Ocean St.
Mayport, FL 32233
Phone: 904-249-5631
Fax: 904-249-7523
admin@jaxpilots.com

St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots

John R. Boyce

President

Pat Broderick

MM&P Branch Agent
P.O. Box 274
230 North Point Street
Cape Vincent, NY 13618
Phone: 315-654-2900
Fax: 315-654-4491

San Francisco Bar Pilots

John Carlier
President/Port Agent
Pier 9, East End
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: 415-362-5436

Nick Deisher
MM&P Representative

Sandy Hook Pilots Association

James Mahlmann
New York President

Timothy J. Ferrie
New Jersey President

Rob Dobrowolski
Branch Agent
rdobrowolski@sandyhookpilots.com

201 Edgewater St.
Staten Island, NY 10305
Phone: 718-448-3900
Fax: 718-447-1582

Savannah Pilots Association

Robert T. ("Trey") Thompson III
Master Pilot
130 Houston St. – P.O. Box 9267
Savannah, GA 31401-3528
Phone: 912-236-0226
Fax: 912-236-6571

Southeast Alaska Pilots' Assn.

Mark Lundamo
President
1621 Tongass Ave. - Suite 300
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: 907-225-9696
Fax: 907-247-9696
pilots@seapa.com
www.seapa.com

Southwest Alaska Pilots Assn.

Ian Maury
President
P.O. Box 977
Homer, AK 99603
Phone: 907-235-8783
Fax: 907-235-6119
swapa@swpilots.net

Tampa Bay Pilots Association

Terry Fluke
Executive Director
1825 Sahlman Dr. Tampa, FL 33605
Phone: 813-247-3737
Fax: 813-247-4425

Virgin Islands Port Authority Pilots

Angelo Raimondi
President
6877 Upper Wintberg
St. Thomas, VI 00802
340-998-2260
VIPBUpresident@gmail.com

Virginia Pilot Association

J. W. Whiting Chisman III
President
3329 Shore Dr.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Phone: 757-496-0995

Western Great Lakes Pilots Association

Capt. Tim Haak
President
6559 S M221, P.O. Box 365
Brimley, MI 49715
Phone: 715-392-5204
capt.haak@wglpa.com

United Inland Membership Group

Ed Lulko
VP-Great Lakes & Gulf Region

Daniel Twohig
VP-Pacific Maritime Region

Ed Lulko
VP-Great Lakes & Gulf Region
P.O. Box 230309
Fair Haven, MI 48023
Phone: 231-750-6054
Fax: 216-776-1668
elulko@bridgedeck.org

Juneau

Jerry Holder
AMHS Representative
Phone: 425-321-0772
jholder@bridgedeck.org

Los Angeles/Long Beach

Antonio Amalfitano
Regional Representative Southern California
533 N. Marine Ave., Ste A
Wilmington, CA 90744-5527
Phone: 310-766-9731
aamalfitano@bridgedeck.org

Oakland

Sly Hunter
Regional Representative Northern California
315 Broadway, Second Floor
Oakland, CA 94607
Phone: 510-808-7066
shunter@bridgedeck.org

Portland

Nick Sorber
Regional Representative
Portland, OR
Phone: 503-369-6947
nsorber@bridgedeck.org

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Eduardo Iglesias
Regional Representative
Cell: 787-354-3162
Office: 787-664-3052
eiglesias@bridgedeck.org

Seattle

Daniel Twohig
VP-Pacific Maritime Region
15208 52nd Ave., South, Ste 100
Seattle, WA 98188
Phone: 425-775-1403
Fax: 425-775-1418
dtwohig@bridgedeck.org

MIRAID

C. James Patti
President
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 507
Washington, DC 20036-5412
Phone: 240-876-4084
Fax: 202-223-9093
jpatti@minaird.org

MM&P Federal Credit Union

Kathy Ann Klisavage
Manager
MM&P Headquarters
700 Maritime Blvd., Suite B
Linthicum, MD 21090-1953
Phone: 410-691-8136
Fax: 410-859-1623
Toll-Free: 1-800-382-7777
(All U.S. and Puerto Rico)
mmppfcu@bridgedeck.org

MM&P Maritime Advancement, Training, Education & Safety Program

Patrick McCullough
Administrator
pmccullough@mmppplans.com

Eric Friend
Executive Director
efriend@mitags.org

Former Atlantic & Gulf Region Health, Pension and Education, Safety & Training Funds

MM&P Plan Office
700 Maritime Blvd., Suite A
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1996
Phone: 410-850-8500
Fax: 410-850-8655
Toll-Free: 1-877-667-5522

Pacific Maritime Region Pension & Benefit Plans

Columbia Northwest Marine Benefit Trust

Patrick McCullough
Administrator
700 Maritime Blvd., Suite A
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1996
Phone: 410-850-8500
Fax: 410-850-8655
Toll-Free: 1-877-667-5522
pmccullough@mmppplans.com
Hours: Monday-Friday
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM ET

Northwest Maritime Pension Trust

MM&P Plan Office
700 Maritime Blvd., Suite A
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1996
Phone: 410-850-8500
Fax: 410-850-8655
Toll-Free: 1-877-667-5522

Southwest Marine Health, Benefit & Pension Trust

Dora Vele
1200 Wilshire Blvd., 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Toll-Free: 1-888-806-8943

Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate Studies (MITAGS)

Eric Friend
Executive Director
efriend@mitags.org
Student Services: 206-739-0720

MITAGS East

692 Maritime Blvd.
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1952
Main Phone: 410-859-5700
Toll Free: 1-866-656-5568
Admissions: admissions@mitags.org
www.mitags.org

BWI Airport Shuttle

(avail. 24 hours a day):
1-866-900-3517 Ext. 0

MITAGS West

1729 Alaskan Way, S.
Seattle, WA 98134-1146
Main: 206-239-9965
Toll-Free: 1-888-893-7829
Admissions: admissions@mates.org
www.mitags.org



CROSS'D THE FINAL BAR

Fernando Alonso, 99, Nov. 3, 2024. A resident of St. Augustine, Fla., and a pensioner since 1990, he last sailed for Marine Transport Lines as master of the *MV Marine Princess*.

Melanie J. Brunmeier, 45, Aug. 18, 2024. A resident of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., she graduated from the US Naval Academy in 2001. Melanie was proud to sail on the maiden voyage of the *USS Ronald Reagan* as part of the Commodore's command staff. She also served on the missile cruiser *USS Vincennes*. After finishing active duty in the Navy, she returned to school to advance her career, attaining the rank of second mate. Her dream was to sail as a pilot. Survivors include her father Michael, brothers M. Joshua, M. Jared and M. James; Walsh family members; and her Naval Academy sponsor family: Bill, M.C., Molly and Jill Warnock.

Richard B. Cotton, 86, Aug. 13, 2024. A resident of Groves, Texas, and a pensioner since 2002, he last sailed for American Heavy Lift as chief engineer aboard the *New River*. He served in the US Army and enjoyed reading and taking classes to further his education. He proudly served several Masonic bodies for over 50 years, holding many positions with honors and awards. "Richard's gentle spirit will remain in the hearts of all who knew him." Survivors include his wife Jeanette, son Richard Jr.; stepsons Ronald and wife Rhonda, Rodney and wife Karen; step-grandchildren Taylor, Carter, Roberto and Rodney Rife Jr.



Stephen H. Doherty, 74, Jan. 9. A resident of Appomattox, Va., and a pensioner since 2021, he was the Vice President of the MM&P Atlantic Maritime Group. He started sailing as a child, and at the age of 14 he became the Narragansett Bay Champion in the junior Beetle Cat Division. At 22, he became a merchant mariner. In retirement, he enjoyed spending time with friends and family in the historical, serene setting of Appomattox. Survivors include his wife, Deborah; children Daniel, Matthew, Michael, Christopher, Victoria and Christian; sister Lynn; nieces Courtney and Cassie; grandchildren Andrew, Emilie, Ava, Cullen, Bella and Sloane, and great-granddaughter Bailee.



Martin Barnaby "Barney" Edwards, 76, Dec. 8, 2024. A resident of Point Richmond, Calif., and a member of the MM&P Federal Employees Membership Group, he sailed as a US Navy Pilot on the West Coast until his retirement in 2014. He is remembered by his colleagues as an officer and a gentleman. He was a great chef, an

unpretentious wine connoisseur, a dedicated Sufi, an independent scholar, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and a legendary storyteller. "His spontaneity, humor, warmth and wisdom will be deeply missed by all." He is survived by his wife Linda, sons Samuel and Andrew, daughter-in-law Julia, and grandchildren Genevieve, Josephine and Beatrice.



Eugene J. Furst, 97, Dec. 2, 2024.

A resident of Menominee, Mich., and a pensioner since 1991, he last sailed for Sealand Services aboard the *MV Sealand Quality*. He enjoyed watching the History Channel and reading books on the wars, listening to big band and Polka music, fishing, and sharing stories of his world travels. When at home, he enjoyed clearing his property with his beloved chainsaw. Survivors include children Jean, Lee and Bruce, granddaughter Chrystal, and great-grandchildren Cody, Jacob and Jack.



Eugene F. Kelly Jr., 72, Feb. 15. A resident

of Abington, Mass., and a 1975 graduate of Mass Maritime Academy, he spent 14 years at sea, traveling the world. He was one of three survivors of the sinking of the *SS Marine Electric* on Feb. 12, 1983. As a result of Gene's testimony to Congress in the wake of the tragedy, historic changes were made in the rules governing the safety of ocean-going ships. Robert Frump recounted the story of the *Marine Electric* and Gene's survival in the novel "Until the Sea Shall Free Them." Gene gave motivational speeches on the importance of the choices we make in life. In 2023, he was the Massachusetts Maritime Academy guest speaker at the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center. In 1989, he became a marine technology instructor, then assistant principal at South Shore Vocational Technical High School. Later, he became a vocational aide at Upper Cape Tech. He owned a boat chartering business, was an avid fisherman, and shared his love of the water with as many people as he could. He enjoyed his retirement, traveling extensively with his wife in their RV. He is survived by Deborah, his wife of 25 years; daughter Lauren, son Patrick and his wife Samantha; stepchildren Kathryn and Thomas; grandchildren William, Sarah, Makayla and Erin; his sisters Kalina, Ann, Lisa and Nancy along with their spouses; nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.



Mark G. Mahoney, 67, Oct. 3, 2024. A resident of Weymouth, Mass., and a pensioner since 2000, he last sailed for United States Ship Management aboard the *Sealand Liberator*. After his retirement, he became a bus driver with the Weymouth Public School system, a job he truly loved. He was also a summer volunteer with the Weymouth Junior Police Academy.

Survivors include his brother Michael and wife Rita; his uncle Patrick and wife Ingrid; Brian M. Mahoney and partner Chiara; niece Shannon; great-nieces Bridget and Hailey.

Ian McLeod, 86, Nov. 18, 2024. A resident of Elma, Wash., and a pensioner since 1996, he last sailed for Matson Navigation aboard the *Manukai*.

Neil A. McManus, 73, July 23, 2024. A resident of Hanalei, Hawaii, and a pensioner since 2010, he last sailed for Matson Navigation aboard the *MV Mahi Mahi*.

Roland Nalette, 99, Oct. 8, 2024. A resident of Foster City, Calif., and a pensioner since 1985, he last sailed for Matson Navigation as master of the *SS Manulani*.



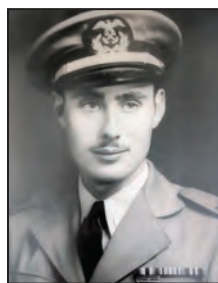
Robert R. Rosenau, 95, Nov. 28, 2024. A resident of Laughlin, Nev., and a pensioner since 2002, he last sailed for Matson Navigation aboard the *SS Lihue*. During World War II, he used altered paperwork so he could sign up as a merchant mariner at the age of 15. In 1951, he joined the US Army and served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He is remembered for

his love of country, family, ranching, animals and his cherished pets.. He remained friends with his first wife, Valentina, and wed Kathryn "Kay" in 1978. He enjoyed Western movies and the Western lifestyle and longed for the era of cowboys. He felt a responsibility to give back and did so for decades through Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Elks Lodge. Survivors include his children Valerie, Charlie, Bob and Maria, sister Betty, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Steven P. Shils, 80, Aug. 27, 2024. A resident of Chesapeake, Va., and a pensioner since 1995, he last sailed for Lykes Brothers Steamship Company aboard the *SS Charlotte Lykes*.



Ernest K. Swanson, 88, Dec. 7, 2024. A resident of Port Charlotte, Fla., and a pensioner since 1993, he was the MM&P Atlantic Ports Vice President and chairman of the MM&P Plans Board of Trustees for the East Coast. Before joining Masters, Mates & Pilots, he served in the US Navy. In retirement, he enjoyed sailing, woodworking, and gardening. He was a devoted family man and is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Silvia, his son Carl Erik, daughter Inga-Britt; grandchildren Audrey, Vivian, Camila, Cassandra, and Jameson.



George T. Worsham, 100, Oct. 14, 2024. A resident of Powhatan, Va., he retired in 1985 as master. He became a merchant mariner at the age of 18 so he could serve his country during World War II. He earned the Atlantic War Zone with Star medal for direct enemy combat when his ship was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat. He also received the Pacific War Zone and Mediterranean War Zone medals. In 2022, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of his service as a merchant mariner during World War II. In 2023, he was invited to the White House for breakfast with the President and First Lady. He enjoyed 52 years of marriage to Margaret Jane Boyd. After her passing, he was married to Martha Nell Sullivan Bush for 18 years and became stepfather to three children. Survivors include his children Thomas, Vicky and Sara; stepchildren Rhonda, Allison and Victoria; 11 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and his brother Hugh.

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

— Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)