

The International Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Tampa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROPELLER CLUB RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING MARITIME INDUSTRY LEADERS AT ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

TAMPA, Fla., February 18, 2020 – The Propeller Club – Port of Tampa recognized nine outstanding members of the maritime community during its recent annual awards ceremony. The event was held at the Bryan Glazer Family Jewish Community Center and attended by members of the Maritime Community and leaders such as The Honorable Mayor Jane Castor and The Honorable Sandra Murman. The Club handed out awards in the categories of Unsung Hero, Leadership, Dave Sessums Maritime Education, Member(s) of the Year, Maritime Person of the Year, and Mainstay. Thank you to our Premier Event Sponsor, **The Mosaic Company** and our Reception Host, **Hendry Marine Industries**. Propeller Club President Shannon LeMoine said, “it was a great night and it was my honor and pleasure to present awards to these fine individuals.”

Members of the Year: John & Judy Paradis

Members of the Year 2019 - John & Judy Paradis. The Paradis' have dedicated countless hours, nights and weekends promoting and supporting Maritime Education in our community. Their hard work has supported a new generation of Maritime workers and that commitment continues grow. They are deserving of this award and the Propeller Club Port of Tampa is excited to honor them.



Maritime Person of the Year: Richard Tager

Maritime Person of the Year, Mr. Richard Tager, Logistec Gulf Coast. Richard has been providing leadership for nearly 50 years in the Maritime Industry. His time serving as an Army Transportation Specialist during the Vietnam war lead him to transitioning to the Maritime Industry. He is a past board member for the Propeller Club Port of Tampa. Richard's leadership has led and continues to lead by bringing people together in all facets of the industry.



Mainstay Awardee: John Thorington

The Mainstay award could not have been given to a more genuine, dedicated and supportive individual to the Maritime Industry, Mr. John Thorington. John has been with Port Tampa Bay since 1981. He presently serves in the capacity of VP of Government Affairs and Board Coordination that directs Port Tampa Bay's legislative agenda at the local, State and Federal levels. He has served on the boards of Tampa Bay International Trade Council, the Propeller Club Port of Tampa, the Tampa Foreign Trade Zone Board and Visit Tampa Bay. He is truly a “Mainstay” in the maritime industry.



Unsung Hero: Mona Sheraidah, Commercial Coordinator for Gulf Sulphur Services/Savage Services



Mona has over 23 years of working in the Sulphur Industry as a Commercial Coordinator. In that position she is in charge of logistics for two of the GSS/Savage locations in Florida and one in St. James, LA. Mona coordinates vessel movement in the Tampa area and is always there to answer questions and assist with any facility issues. She is extremely knowledgeable of her craft and provides excellent customer service by blending her experience with a friendly attitude. She is always available and never too busy to help. For all that Mona does every day for Gulf Sulphur Services/Savage Services, she is an Unsung Hero.

Unsung Hero: Lynn Reece, Asst. to John Thorington and Board Coordinator for Port Tampa Bay



There is no one more loyal, dependable, and industrious than Ms. Lynn Reece. Not too many see the effort and multiple steps it takes to coordinate a successful board meeting from arranging staff meetings and agenda items, to communicating with PTB board members, to making sure everything is in place on the day of the meeting. From people to paperwork to technology, Lynn is the key person making sure that the meetings appear as one complete package. Going on 10 years at PTB, Lynn is an Unsung Hero for all the great effort she shows day in and day out and for making it seem easy.

Unsung Hero: Rosie Sanchez, Customer Service Representative for Ports America



Rosie has been working in various capacities for Ports America since our arrival in 2006 and has more than 20 years of experience in the maritime industry. She always goes above and beyond for us and for our customers. Rosie is a loyal, dedicated, cheerful, honest, hard-working member of the Ports America Customer Service team. She performs her duties accurately and enthusiastically and for all of these reasons, she is an Unsung Hero.

Unsung Hero: Satish Janardhanan, V-Marine Services



Satish has been an expert in vessel cargo loading and unloading operations in the Port of Tampa for many years and has been an asset to Mosaic and countless other vendors in his work as a draft surveyor. Satish goes beyond the everyday duties of completing vessel draft surveys by working with captains, agents, pilots, terminal staff, and owners to seek solutions to maximize cargo intake, minimize time at berth, and avoid delays. He represents the interests of all stakeholders without bias or agenda and works to create the best possible plan for all involved while ensuring the vessels are in a safe seaworthy condition to navigate the waterways of Tampa Bay.

He consistently goes above the call of duty and truly meets the definition of an Unsung Hero.

Leadership: Jere White – Representing Tampa Bay Maritime Scholarship Program, Vessel Movement Committee and Port Tampa Maritime Industries Association



Jere has been chosen as the recipient of this year's Leadership Award because of his tireless efforts to promote the maritime industry. His enthusiasm for, and leadership in, the industry and commitment to ensuring that it remains a safe, reliable, and enriching career for future generations is never in doubt. His dedication to remaining involved in the industry, as a leader of many committees and participation and planning of maritime events, make him stand out in our community and sets a fine example for future sailors and others who wish to make the maritime industry a career.

He is an active participant in various groups, including the Tampa Bay Maritime Scholarship Foundation, the Vessel Movement Committee, a subcommittee of the Tampa Bay Harbor Safety and Security Committee, and the Port Tampa Maritime Industry Association, lately of which he has helped organize and promote the Port Exploration Series.

Dave Sessums Maritime Education Awardee - Dennis Martin, General Manager of Operations, Safety and Training at Port Tampa Bay

Since coming aboard with Port Tampa Bay in 2016, Dennis Martin has been a critical part in the implementation and success of the Jefferson Maritime and Marine Science Academy and the Blake High School Maritime Technology Program. Dennis has been a vital member of the Maritime Education Committee, a Board member of the Tampa Bay Maritime Scholarship Foundation, coordinator for the Port Tampa Bay Student Summer Shadow program, field guide for the annual Freshman Port Tampa Bay tour field trip and represents Port Tampa Bay at the annual Jefferson High School Maritime Career Expo.

None of this would be possible without Dave Sessums' vision for the educational outreach which he created. Dave would be proud to see how Dennis has carried on this vision. Dennis' contributions go way above and beyond his day to day responsibilities. He is passionate about these students and their futures and exemplifies the embodiment of the Dave Sessums Maritime Education Award.



**A special thank you to The Mosaic Company
& Hendry Marine Industries
for sponsoring this year's awards banquet.**

Congratulations to all of the winners!

The awards were well-deserved by all recipients.

(Photos by Nancy Simms)

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About the Propeller Club – Port of Tampa: The Propeller Club in Tampa Bay is the largest Propeller Club in the United States, with over 500 active members. The Club supports the maritime industry, promotes maritime education and provides opportunities to foster goodwill and cooperative relationships among the individuals, businesses and government agencies who make up Florida's largest seaport community.