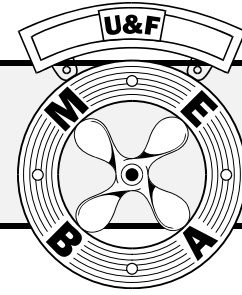


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



JUNE 2007

Congress and the President spent May 2007 debating national hot button issues including funding for the war in Iraq and immigration reform. Their partisanship was temporarily set aside when both found the time to honor the US Merchant Marine on National Maritime Day.

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

On Tuesday, May 22nd National Maritime Day observances were held in Washington, DC at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and at the Washington Navy Yard. President Bush and Members of Congress also paused to honor the US Merchant Marine.

George W. Bush issued a Presidential Proclamation reading, "America has a proud maritime history, and the United States Merchant Marine has played a vital role in helping meet our country's economic and national security needs. On National Maritime Day, we honor merchant mariners for their dedication to promoting commerce and protecting our freedom. During times of peace, the U.S. Merchant Marine helps ensure our economic security by keeping the oceans open to trade. Ships operated by merchant mariners transport goods across our Nation's waterways and on the high seas around the world to connect American businesses and consumers with valuable foreign markets and commodities. The skill and expertise of merchant mariners facilitates trade and helps to strengthen our economy."

Congressman Brian Baird of Washington State said, "I am proud to join with my colleagues in Congress, the President, and others around the country in recognizing National Maritime Day. Maritime transportation is a fundamental part of our country's economic growth and success, as well as our national security."

Congressman Jerry McNerney of California said, "The dedication and sacrifice of our Merchant Mariners is unassailable. Despite higher casualty rates than any branch of regular military service in World War II, Merchant Mariners have continued to answer the call to war with unflinching patriotism and valor. Today, National Maritime Day, we should take time to reflect on the devotion of all our Merchant Mariners and the deep and lasting debt owed them by a grateful nation."

Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger of Maryland said, "Without the hard work and dedication of America's Merchant Mariners, the Port of Baltimore and the State of Maryland would not maintain the economic prosperity and success we enjoy today. I look forward to steaming ahead together with the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association for Maryland and our nation."

MARAD GRANTS DEEPWATER PORT LICENSE FOR EXCELERATE ENERGY

In a ceremony at M.E.B.A. Headquarters, Maritime Administrator Sean Connaughton signed Excelerate Energy's Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge Deepwater Port license. Excelerate Energy is M.E.B.A.'s newest contracted company and Excelerate President Kathleen Eisbrenner and other company officials were joined at the signing ceremony by a M.E.B.A. contingent led by President Ron Davis.