

# Shipping Shorts

## M.O. NEEDS VESSEL SHOTS/WORKING PIX

The *Marine Officer* could use your photographs illustrating 'the shipping life.' We can always find use for working photos of M.E.B.A. mariners onboard their vessels and would love to have your ship shots to better catalog the M.E.B.A. fleet. Digital photos can be e-mailed to editor@d1meba.org. Make sure you take them at the highest resolution that your camera can support. Photos of members with New York Yankees or Dallas Cowboys paraphernalia will be discarded or "photo-shopped." Have some courtesies! Regular photographs can be mailed to: M.E.B.A. Marine Officer, 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington D.C. 20001. In all cases, make sure you i.d. the vessel and people in the photo.

## AFTER SEPT. 25, NO TWIC MEANS NO WORK

U.S. mariners MUST have their Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) by September 25, 2008 in order to continue sailing. It takes at least 30 days from making your initial application until you can pick up the card and activate it. If you wait much longer you may not secure your TWIC by the time you need it to continue working.

The TWIC is a biometric credential to ensure that workers who pose a risk to national security do not have unescorted access to secure areas of sensitive maritime facilities including ports and vessels.

Members should pre-enroll for TWIC on the TSA Web site ([www.tsa.gov/twic](http://www.tsa.gov/twic)). Pre-enrollment speeds up the process by allowing workers to provide biographic information and schedule a time to complete the application process in person. This reduces waiting and in-person enrollment times for each individual. Once you enter your information and create a username and password online you need to schedule an appointment at one of the enrollment centers. This can be accomplished by calling the TWIC help line at (866) 347-8942. It should be noted that the enrollment centers are still being established and there may not be one in your area at this time. For your appointment, you will need to bring identification



The HORIZON HAWK, with an M.E.B.A., MM&P & SIU crew aboard, is the second of five Hunter-class newbuilds that Horizon is bringing into its fleet.

to the enrollment center and a form of payment. Your valid U.S. passport or Merchant Mariner's Document can be used



M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe in a recent chat at the Navy Yard with MSC Commander Rear Admiral Robert Reilly.

for a single qualifying piece of identification.

## BUSH BUDGET A WIN FOR MSP

President Bush released the last budget request of his Administration in early February with some good news for the Maritime Security Program. The release of the President's budget is the first step in the budget process for Fiscal Year 2009.

Included in the President's budget is a request for \$174 million for the MSP. This is an increase of \$18 million over last years' funding level. The 2009 FY is the first in a series of two authorized funding increases for MSP that were built into the MSP reauthorization passed in 2003. The next one will come during FY 2012. This was a big win for the maritime industry. The President's budget request last year included a 1% cut to MSP, which was successfully replaced thanks to the lobbying efforts of maritime labor. In recognition of the possibility of another cut, maritime labor and the rest of the industry swung into high gear last year to make the case for full MSP funding in the President's budget this year.



Powerful Senator Trent Lott, a friend to the M.E.B.A. and champion of the maritime industry, retired at the end of last year. Seen here with M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, Lott was honored with the AOTOS statuette in 1995 and the Propeller Club's "Salute to Congress" award in 1997.

At the Earle Naval Weapons Station in New Jersey aboard the MSC ship USNS MOUNT BAKER are (l-r) 1st A/E Dominique Guilherme, 3rd A/E William Walkup, M.E.B.A. Government Fleet Rep. Randi Ciszewski and 2nd A/E Steve Willis.

### MEMBERS CREW UP HAYES & WATERS

M.E.B.A. officers are crewing up two Military Sealift Command Special Mission ships after Patriot Contract Services, a subsidiary of American Ship Management, won the MSC bid to operate the USNS WATERS and USNS HAYES. The WATERS is a Hydrographic Survey Ship built in 1993 that supports missile range instrumentation and submarine navigation research missions. The USNS HAYES, "the quietest research ship in the world," was converted into an Acoustic Research vessel in 1992. M.E.B.A. will serve in the engine rooms of the ships with MM&P officers on deck. Members are already aboard the HAYES. Patriot takes over the WATERS in late April.

and expeditionary strike groups, allowing them to stay at sea for extended periods of time. At presstime, M.E.B.A. welcomed the fifth T-AKE in the program -- the USNS ROBERT E. PEARY which was christened at NASSCO in February.

The T-AKEs will replace some of the aging, single-mission ships such as Kilauea-class ammunition vessels and Mars and Sirius-class combat stores ships that are nearing the end of their service lives.

### BURDENSOME NSPS REGS ARE HISTORY

A \$696 billion Defense Reauthorization bill signed into law earlier this year contains a rewrite of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) that will help protect collective bargaining rights. M.E.B.A. has been fighting for this protection ever since the original introduction of NSPS several years ago.

### CONGRESS PAVES THE WAY FOR SHORT SEA SHIPPING

Congress wrapped up 2007 having passed a variety of legislation benefiting the Merchant Marine. Included was full funding for the Maritime Security Program, funding for a variety of other important maritime programs including TWIC, Title XI, Port Security grants and the Maritime Administration as well as language creating a short sea shipping program within the Department of Transportation,

The Defense Department's NSPS targeted civilian employees and included major changes to pay and classification, performance management, hiring, workforce shaping, disciplinary matters, appeals procedures, and labor-management relations. The system would have jeopardized workers' rights and damaged the ability of DOD employees to collectively bargain. The new Defense bill effectively clips the objectionable language and marks a successful end to organized labor's battle against the anti-union provisions of the NSPS.

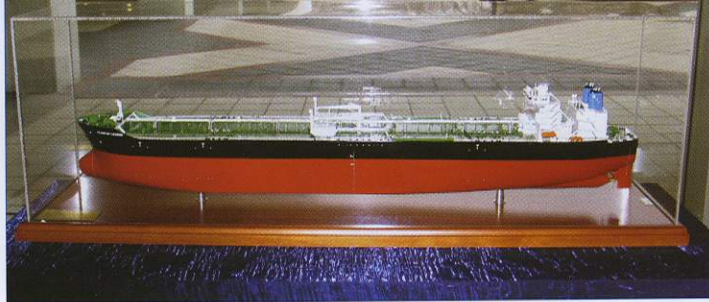
### M.E.B.A. ABOARD LATEST T-AKES

M.E.B.A. officers crewed up the latest Military Sealift Command dry/cargo ammunition ship recently after the USNS RICHARD E. BYRD was delivered by San Diego's NASSCO shipyard. BYRD, designated T-AKE 4, is the fourth in the Lewis and Clark-class of underway replenishment ships which deliver ammunition, provisions, stores, spare parts, potable water and petroleum products to the Navy's underway carrier

The President signed H.R. 6, the Energy Independence and Security Act, into law on December 19th. One of its provisions grants authority to the DOT to create a short sea shipping program, promote the program and encourage federal agencies to use short sea shipping wherever possible. It also contains other incentives designed to expand what MarAd has called "America's Marine Highway." It also creates a federal board to identify and seek solutions to hurdles that would hinder effective use of short sea transportation. Members of the board will include representatives from the DOT, Environmental Protection Agency and other federal, state, and local governmental bodies as well as private sector entities.

An Omnibus Appropriations Act was approved late in the year which contained the Transportation Appropriations bill. In it was funding for the MSP, Maritime Administration, Title XI and a variety of other maritime related funding. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of maritime labor, funding from the FY 2008 MSP was increased from the \$154.5 million requested by the





Horizon Lines provided M.E.B.A. Headquarters with this beautiful model of the newbuild HORIZON FALCON (at left). On the right is a model of the recently-built ALASKAN LEGEND, provided by ATC. Both ship models are on display in the lobby of M.E.B.A.'s Hall of the States building. Located between Union Station and the U.S. Capitol, our building is home to the D.C. offices of Governors from around the nation and several major TV studios among many other businesses, and is visited by TV personalities and political power players daily.

President in his budget request to the fully authorized level of \$156 million. This was a major victory for maritime, especially given the huge restraints placed on spending increases in the 110th Congress, and paves the way for a significant increase next year for MSP. The bill also includes \$400 million in port security grants and \$8.1 million for a TWIC card reader pilot program, both of which have the support of the industry. Title XI received \$5 million in appropriations, which was an increase over last year's funding level.

Successes like this on Capitol Hill are made possible in part by a strong Political Action Fund. Continue to support M.E.B.A.'s P.A.F. and it, in turn, will continue to work for you.

### SCHOOL SETS CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW TO BENEFIT MEMORIAL

The M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation is having a Car & Bike Show that will take place at the School on May 24, 2008 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be raffles, food, live music, and trophies for winning contestants all for a \$5 admission fee for those not entering a car or motorcycle in the show.

If you are showing in the event, there will be a \$25 Registration Fee for a Car, \$15 for a Motorcycle. All proceeds go to the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation, Inc. to help with further maintenance on the Memorial Park. Registration begins at 10 am on that day with the judging beginning at noon. A band will rock out the show starting at 1 p.m. The Burn-Out begins at 2 p.m. with the raffle and door prizes at 3 p.m.

You can also support the Memorial by purchasing a brick or a bench. Memorial bricks can be engraved with names of loved ones and are part of the retreat at the Park. The Park, a tribute to fallen mariners, is shaped like a 600-foot merchant vessel complete with 5-ton anchors, a ship's bell and a stern section with a six-bladed, 22-foot diameter bronze propeller. A memorial bench with the name of a loved one can also be purchased. A bench is a perfect vantage point to gaze around the park and reflect upon the contributions of mariners who have sailed into the sunset. Anyone wishing to purchase a brick or bench must complete and return a donation form and monies.

If you want to register for the Show, ask about benches, bricks or donating, please contact Jessica Milligan at (410) 822-9600, ext. 306 or [jmilligan@mebaschool.org](mailto:jmilligan@mebaschool.org). She will also field questions about vending opportunities. Checks should be payable to MMMMF, Inc, P.O. Box 2443, Easton, MD 21601. Visit the Memorial section of the School's website at [www.meb-aschool.org](http://www.meb-aschool.org).



M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe (center) seen here with new ILA President Richard Hughes (l) at the retirement party for the legendary John Bowers (r) who was unanimously elected ILA President Emeritus. The two newly elected presidents already have a great working relationship. Among other topics, they discussed mutual concerns and talked about how to bring our organizations closer together.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION TIME/PLACE SET

The National M.E.B.A. Constitution decrees that the N.M.E.B.A. shall stage its Convention on the third Monday in March every three years. That date falls on March 17, 2008. The National Executive Committee has decided that the 109th National M.E.B.A. Convention will take place at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School to commence at the stroke of 9 a.m. The District elections which concluded on December 3, 2007 determined the 20 Delegates who will conduct National M.E.B.A. business on that day. One of the first orders of business at the Convention will be to elect a new National Executive Committee. It will consist of a National President, National Secretary-Treasurer, National Vice President and two NEC Members. M.E.B.A. members in good standing are welcome to attend.