



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOCAL MARITIME LEADERS JOIN PROPELLER CLUB PORT OF NORFOLK
TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL MARITIME DAY ON MAY 22, 2020**

NORFOLK, VA--The Propeller Club of the United States Port of Norfolk will celebrate National Maritime Day via livestream on Friday, May 22nd at 4 PM.

The unique event will include heartfelt words of thanks to Hampton Roads' maritime community from several political and business leaders, including US Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao; US Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine; Captain Kevin Carroll, Commander USCG Sector Virginia; Captain Andrew Lindey, Master USNS COMFORT; RADM Mark Buzby (Ret.), US Maritime Administrator, and many more.

The Virginia Pilot Association will lay a wreath in the Elizabeth River at 8 AM the day of the event to honor mariners past and present as local tug companies, McAllister Towing & Transportation and Moran Towing give the traditional water salute. Normally a poignant moment of the Club's in-person event, the wreath laying will be filmed from Nauticus and broadcast as part of the larger, virtual event later that day.

"The essential workers of our maritime community have continued to work tirelessly throughout the pandemic to keep the ships afloat and commerce moving," says Marc Marling, president of Vanmarc Shipping Limited Company and president of the International Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Norfolk Chapter. "When we realized we wouldn't be able to honor them with our traditional in-person event, our board of governors set into motion to create a one-of-a-kind virtual celebration for everyone to enjoy from the comfort and safety of home. I'm humbled by the support and participation this event has already received, and I look forward to sharing it with our community on May 22nd."

All are welcome to join at 4 PM on Friday, May 22, 2020. At that time, the event will be available via livestream on the Club's YouTube page, here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vntCZ5FqLtQ&feature=youtu.be>

About National Maritime Day

In 1933, Congress dedicated May 22 as National Maritime Day to commemorate the American steamship *SAVANNAH'S* successful transatlantic voyage, the first of its kind using steam propulsion. Since then, the day has become an opportunity to recognize the maritime industry's men and women who fuel our economy and support our national security.

About the International Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Norfolk

The Propeller Club Port of Norfolk has more than 300 members from all facets of the maritime transportation and logistics fields and hosts a number of networking events throughout the year. The Propeller Club Port of Norfolk is a member club of The International Propeller Club of the United States, a grassroots, non-profit organization, dedicated to the enhancement and well-being of all interests of the maritime community on a national and international basis. The Propeller Club aggressively promotes



the maritime industry with the goal of educating legislators and the public as to the importance and necessity of all waterborne commerce.

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