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Port of Palm Beach encourages ships to ‘Sound Off’ their horns Friday to celebrate National Maritime Day

Riviera Beach, Florida, May 21, 2020- Vessels in our harbor and at berth will be sounding their horns or whistles four times at noon this Friday, May 22nd in celebration of National Maritime Day.

The initiative, spearheaded by [American Association of Port Authorities \(AAPA\)](#), recognizes the mariners, the maritime industry, ports and their workforces.

This year’s National Maritime Day theme, ‘Sound Off’ for National Maritime Day, focuses on the current COVID-19 global pandemic response and recovery effort. It’s a recognition of the dedication, sacrifice, and professionalism of the port industry workforce in their collective efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus, while ensuring a steady flow of vital goods and services around globe.

The Port of Palm Beach handles a full range of cargos, with 80% of the cargo being exported. Even though we are one of the physically smaller ports of Florida’s 14 seaports, we are the fourth busiest container port in the state. Our tenants move \$7 billion worth of commodities each year.

“The Port of Palm Beach has remained open and operational throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We have focused on functioning safely, while at the same time remaining efficient so cargo can keep moving in and out of the Port. We understand people are depending on maritime workers for commodities used in our everyday lives, as well as goods needed to combat the virus,” said Port Executive Director Manuel Almira.

In the U.S. alone, more than 652,000 maritime-industry professionals work every day to ensure cargo and cruise and ferry travelers move efficiently through the nation’s ports.

“Please remember port workers and their logistics partners are laboring around the clock to keep us all supplied with vital consumer goods, medical equipment, energy and raw materials,” said **Chris Connor**, AAPA president and CEO. “While taking all necessary precautions against spreading the virus themselves, our maritime workforce continues to deliver vital goods and services, ship exports, and connect farmers, manufacturers, retailers and consumers to the global marketplace.”

According to **IHS Markit's GTA Forecasting** (previously known as IHS World Trade Service), combined international sea trade moving through Western Hemisphere seaports in 2018 totaled nearly 4.2 billion metric tons in volume and \$3.7 trillion in value. Of that combined total, U.S. seaports handled 1.01 billion metric tons of international trade valued at \$1.95 trillion.

“Many people are unaware of the economic impact seaports have on their daily lives. Locally we support construction projects, we play a major role in maintaining our roads with the handling of liquid asphalt and we generate about 2,800 direct jobs. In addition, we have people in the Caribbean who rely on us for essential goods,” Almira said.

About Port of Palm Beach

Located in Riviera Beach, the Port of Palm Beach is a full-service, diversified port, offering cruise and cargo services to more than 30 onsite tenants and users. At 162 acres, the Port's efficiency is unparalleled, processing more than \$7 billion in commodities, 2.5 million tons of cargo, and 500,000 cruise passengers annually. As one of the largest employers in Palm Beach County, the Port of Palm Beach and its tenants employ more than 2,850 people. Through the contribution of more than \$185 million in business revenue and \$17.5 million in tenant-contributed state and local annual tax revenue, the Port of Palm Beach is a large economic engine in South Florida. For more information, visit www.portofpalmbeach.com.

About AAPA

Founded in 1912 and recognized as the unified voice of seaports in the Americas, AAPA today represents 130 of the leading seaport authorities in the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean and more than 200 sustaining and associate members, firms and individuals with an interest in seaports.

According to IHS Markit's GTA Forecasting (previously known as World Trade Service), combined international sea trade moving through Western Hemisphere seaports in 2018 totaled nearly 4.2 billion metric tons in volume and US\$3.7 trillion in value. Of that combined total, seaports in Central and South America handled 1.86 billion metric tons of cargo valued at US\$1.17 trillion, while North American seaports handled 2.34 billion metric tons of goods, valued at US\$2.53 trillion. Within North America, U.S. seaports handled 1.01 billion metric tons of international trade valued at US\$1.95 trillion, while Canada's seaports handled 380.53 million metric tons of goods valued at US\$266.67 billion, and Mexico's seaports handled 352.53 million metric tons of cargo valued at US\$312.91 billion.

To meet the growing demand for trade, the AAPA and its members are committed to keeping seaports navigable, secure and sustainable. For more information, visit www.aapa-ports.org.

On Twitter: http://twitter.com/AAPA_Seaports