



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: **Tara Monks**

Phone: (561) 319-0098

Email: tmonks@portofpalmbeach.com

Port of Palm Beach Hosts 2015 Centennial Celebration & Harbor of Hope's Blessing of the Fleet

What: Harbor of Hope Centennial Port Festival & Blessing of the Fleet

When: Saturday, April 11, 2015, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Where: Port of Palm Beach, Riviera Beach

April 1, 2015 (Riviera Beach, FL) – On April 11, 2015, the Port of Palm Beach will host the Centennial Port Festival and Blessing of the Fleet, a celebration of the maritime industry and the local community surrounding the Port. 2015 marks a special year for this seventh annual event, as it represents the 100 Year Anniversary of the Port of Palm Beach. It also celebrates a 100 year old tradition, the blessing of seafaring vessels, and aims to raise awareness and funds for a Seafarers' House – an establishment that will support Port visitors for the next 100 years.

On Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm, the Harbor of Hope festival will offer waterfront entertainment and a view of the working Port and its maritime partners that the public rarely has access to. Participants in the blessing and the festival will include, among others:

- Palm Beach Harbor Pilots procession;
- Tropical Shipping vessels;
- the U.S. Coast Guard, with two Coast Guard cutters docked and open for tours;
- the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Volunteer Marine Unit;
- Palm Beach Sea Cadets presentations and demonstrations;
- Palm Beach Maritime Academy display;
- U.S. Customs & Border Protection information and demonstrations;
- Marine Industries Association display and activity center, and
- Port of Palm Beach display.

This family friendly event is FREE to the public, with all raffle and profit proceeds going directly to Harbor of Hope. To view the Harbor of Hope Blessing of the Fleet Event online, please visit the [Port of Palm Beach Facebook Page](#).

This event is being sponsored by the Port of Palm Beach District, Palm Beach Marine Industries Association, Tropical Shipping, Bahamas Paradise Cruises, and Majestic Princess.

About the Port of Palm Beach

The Port of Palm Beach is a 162-acre, full-service, diversified port, handling a full range of cargos and moving \$4 billion worth of commodities, two million tons of diversified cargoes and more than 340,000 passengers annually. The Port is committed to the highest levels of service and to fiscal and environmental responsibility while ensuring the utmost safety and security. For more information on the Port of Palm Beach, please visit www.portofpalmbeach.com.

About Harbor of Hope

Harbor of Hope is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the welcoming and caring of mariners coming from countries all over the world. The Port of Palm Beach is the 18th busiest container port in the U.S. and sees thousands of seafarers every year. These mariners are responsible for transporting 80% of all the products used within the United States; and they spend months and sometimes years, away from home. Harbor of Hope is the welcoming organization for the Port of Palm Beach and is dedicated to providing a unique blend of services to improve the lives of seafarers through hospitality, personal and material support and hospital visits.