

The International Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Tampa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROPELLER CLUB RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING MARITIME INDUSTRY LEADERS AT ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

TAMPA, Fla., March 6, 2017 – The Port of Tampa Propeller Club recognized five outstanding members of the maritime community during its recent annual awards ceremony. **Propeller Club President Danielle Johnson** lead the program, which recognized members in the categories of Unsung Hero, Leadership, Member of the Year, Maritime Person of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Dave Sessums (posthumously):

Dave was a long-time employee with International Ship Repair. Dave passed away on Christmas Day after a short battle with cancer, followed two-weeks later by the passing of his beloved wife Susan. Dave was one of our “start-up” education curriculum founders and then chaired the Education Committee which helped develop the Maritime program curriculum at Jefferson and Blake High Schools. Dave’s work will live on with each graduate of the program. Dave’s son Chris accepted the award on his behalf. *(photo right: Danielle Johnson, Chris Sessums and KC Misemer)*



Member of the Year: John Thorington

John has been with Port Tampa Bay since 1981, and joined the Propeller Club shortly after he started at the Port. John is the Port’s Vice President of Government Affairs and Board Coordination, but he has also been one of the Club’s most active members, attending almost every event and every board meeting. John currently chairs the Club’s Governmental Affairs Committee, keeping the board aware of maritime and port-related issues, status of relevant legislation, and opportunities to engage with our local, state, and federal officials.

Maritime Person of the Year: Bob Callahan

Bob is the recently-retired Vice President of Operations for Port Tampa Bay. Bob’ career spanned more than 41 years, and included service in the US Navy and Navy Reserves, retiring as Commander. In addition, Bob’s work experience includes tugboats, cruise lines, vessel liner operations, marine terminals and port authorities. Bob is also the former Secretary to the Tampa Bay Harbor Safety and Security Committee. Bob is known as an excellent diplomat, always acting in a spirit of cooperation.



Danielle Johnson, Bob Callahan, Paul Anderson, John Thorington and KC Misemer

Leadership: John Shaw

As a marine engineering graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, John has served in management & leadership throughout the Tampa Bay region for 20 years in marine repair, shipbuilding & marine metal fabrication. He's been a manager, superintendent & engineer for several local companies — including International Ship Repair & Marine Services; Hendry Corporation; Padgett-Swann; RiverHawk Fast Sea Frames; and, Marine Metal Fabrication, Inc. Over the years John has tirelessly responded to repairs and breakdowns of countless vessels, reliably serving ship-owners, operators and marine industry at large. He's also served as a U.S. Naval Reserve Officer.

Unsung Hero: Karissa Brown

Karissa is the Customer Service Representative, Social Media Coordinator and Gangway Watch at the American Victory Ship. She manages all museum admissions, daily reports, general announcements, store inventory, social media and group tours. She also answers the phones, works events, and even maintains public spaces to make sure everything is presentable to American Victory Ship guests. Karissa always makes sure all guests receive a huge smile and a kind greeting.

Unsung Hero: John Dunn

John is a Senior Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) specialist and has been with Mosaic for 39 years. As a Senior EHS Specialist, John provides daily support for safety and occupational health programs at Mosaic. John manages health and safety risks for the company, and ensures compliance with federal, state and local regulations and company policies. During his nearly 40 years at Mosaic, John has established and promoted safe and healthy work conditions, as well as an overall culture of safety.



President Danielle Johnson with John Shaw, Karissa Brown, John Dunn with Propeller Club Awards Chair Darren Richards and event speaker RADM Ed Winters

Congratulation to all the winners and a special thank you to the Mosaic Company, Gulf Marine, and International Ship Repair & Marine Services for sponsoring this year's award banquet at the Florida Aquarium.