

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROPELLER CLUB, PORT OF TAMPA RECOGNIZES U.S. COAST GUARD AND WELCOMES ADMIRAL KARL SCHULTZ, COMMANDANT, USCG

TAMPA, Fla., Jan. 28, 2020 - The Propeller Club, Port of Tampa held its **29th Annual Salute to the U.S. Coast Guard Dinner** on 28 January 2020 at the Westshore Grande Hotel in Tampa, Florida with 250 in attendance. This event is held annually to honor our men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Tampa Propeller Club President, Shannon LeMoine and Salute Event Chairman RADM William F. Merlin, USCG (Ret) welcomed ADM Karl Schultz, Commandant, USCG as the guest speaker who was on hand to present this year's Special Recognition Awards. The co-hosts of this year's event were the Navy League of the United States, Tampa Bay Council and the Coast Guard Foundation. Both Skip Witunski (Tampa Council, Navy League) and Susan Ludwig (President, Coast Guard Foundation) were also on hand to present this year's awards. "It was appropriately a hand-warming event to salute the men and women of Team Coast Guard for their superb service to the people of our nation throughout 2019" said RADM Merlin.

It was a very pleasant evening, with all elements of Team Coast Guard recognized for their contributions to successful service to our country. "We are delighted that the Propeller Club – Port of Tampa could be instrumental in honoring the Coast Guard, and those Coast Guard men and women that are so deserving of special recognition", said Propeller Club President, Shannon LeMoine.

Two awards were presented to local Coast Guardsman. The first award was presented to **Airstation Clearwater** for their Search and Rescue efforts on 3 separate SAR during 2019.



RADM Bill Merlin, Susan Ludwig, MCPOCG Vanderhaden, Shannon LeMoine, Admiral Schultz, Captain McGilley and Skip Witunsk with USCG Team Airstation Clearwater

The second award was presented to **Sector St. Petersburg** in recognition for their overall performance as Team Sector St. Petersburg throughout 2019.



*RADM Merlin, Susan Ludwig, MCPOCG Vanderhaden, Admiral Schultz, Captain Thompson
Shannon LeMoine and USCG Team Sector St. Petersburg*

Thank you to all our event sponsors: CG Foundation, Tampa Council-Navy League, Navy League Sea Cadets and Logistec Gulf Coast. Thank you also to our Coast Guard guest sponsors: A.R. Savage & Son; Army Corps of Engineers; Crowley Petroleum; Harden Marine; Hendry Marine Industries; Logistec Gulf Coast; Harden Marine; Marine Towing of Tampa; Merlin Management; Port Tampa Bay; Ports America; Propeller Club – Port Canaveral; Propeller Club – Port Manatee; Propeller Club – Port of Tampa; Rintel Corporation; Seabulk Towing; Tampa Bay Pilots Association; Tampa Council, Navy League; Tampa Electric Company; The Mosaic Company; USF Marine Science and Safe Harbor Maritime.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR COAST GUARDSMEN
AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

Photos by: Nancy Simms

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About The Propeller Club – Port of Tampa: The Propeller Club in Tampa Bay is the largest Propeller Club in the United States, with over 500 active members. The Club supports the maritime industry, promotes maritime education and provides opportunities to foster goodwill and cooperative relationships among the individuals, businesses and government agencies who make up Florida's largest seaport community.