

## Here's What's Happening at Your Propeller Club - Port of Tampa

February 2021 Newsletter

### Salute to the USCG Awards Ceremony

As you all are aware, this year, we were not able to hold our 30th Annual Salute to the United States Coast Guard Dinner and Awards Night. So we came up with another plan and thanks to Port Tampa Bay and the Tampa Bay Harbor Safety and Security Committee, we were able to present awards this year during their Quarterly Tampa Bay Harbor Safety & Security Committee meeting held on Friday, January 29, 2021.

On hand to present the awards were: RADM Eric Jones, Commander, 7th District (Miami); RADM Bill Merlin, USCG (ret); Propeller Club President Mark Valenti (with WSP); and, 1st Vice President, Chris Chambers (with Tampa Electric Company.)



Our first award was proudly presented to the crew of CG6031 in recognition of the exceptionally meritorious performance on January 9, 2020 while deployed in the Bahamas. Displaying outstanding skills and commendable bravery under challenging and dangerous weather and sea conditions, three crewmen of the sinking vessel *Gulf Man* were rescued from the water.

*Photo above: Propeller Club President Mark Valenti; AST2 Nathan Renshaw, USCG A/S Clearwater, RADM Eric Jones; CDR David Sheppard, USCG A/S Clearwater and Propeller Club's 1st Vice President Chris Chambers.*



Our second award was proudly presented to the crew of Station St. Petersburg 45-foot Response Boat in recognition of their demonstration of superb seamanship and rescue techniques under severe weather and sea conditions on 20 September 2020, in the rescue of seven people in the water in the vicinity of a capsized vessel in Tampa Bay.

*Photo above: Propeller Club 1st Vice President Chris Chambers; BM2 Brett Cagle; BM3 Nicholas Jennings; BMCS Timothy Abrams; Captain Matt Thompson; RADM Eric Jones; CDR Shaun Lansing; and Propeller Club President Mark Valenti.*

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## **41st Anniversary of the Blackthorn Memorial Ceremony - January 28, 2021**

Prior to the awards ceremony the Propeller Club - Port of Tampa was honored to participate in the 41st Annual Blackthorn Memorial at 1100 on Thursday January 28, 2021 at the Memorial site and presented a wreath. This year's guest was speaker RADM Eric Jones.

The USCGC BLACKTHORN, homeported in Galveston, Texas since 1976 was in a shipyard in Tampa, Florida for routine repairs during January 1980. On January 28, she got underway to return to Galveston. At 7:21 p.m. BLACKTHORN and the Motor Tanker CAPRICORN collided west of the Sunshine State Parkway Bridge. BLACKTHORN sank, taking 23 of her crew to their deaths. The annual ceremony is a tribute to these hardworking Coast Guardsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice to their ship, the Coast Guard and their country.



*Propeller Club President Mark Valenti with 1st Vice President Chris Chambers*

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*Coast Guardsmen from Sector St. Petersburg and Airstation Clearwater in front of the blackthorn memorial ceremony.*

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## February Maritime Awards Presentation

**From: Shannon LeMoine**

On behalf of the Propeller Club - Port of Tampa we would like to thank all our loyal members and friends for their support of the club during this past year and presently. Dealing with the pandemic has been challenging for everyone but we are trying to have as many events and attendees as feasible but also keep everyone safe.

We feel one of our most important events that we hold each February is Leadership Night. This is a time when we recognize very deserving individuals within our Maritime community that are dedicated to the successes of their company as well the Maritime Industry. Nominees for these awards are individuals that are chosen by their peers, employers and/or co-workers that feel they go above and beyond what is expected of them, it is a great honor to be nominated for any of these awards.

In order to continue this meaningful event we will be having a scaled down ceremony this year. We will be presenting our Unsung Hero, Leadership Skills, Member of the Year and Maritime Person of the Year awards in the Port Tampa Bay boardroom. Unfortunately, this event will be by invitation only but we will be sharing the news of the meritorious individuals immediately following the ceremony.

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## Membership

**From: Darren Richards**

As the largest Propeller Club in the world, we have always been proud to have so many active and engaged members – approximately 500 strong.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we haven't been able to provide our members with the large networking events they enjoy. Still, the vast majority of our members have kept current on their dues. That commitment is greatly appreciated. It has allowed the Club to continue to support the maritime program at Jefferson High, send out our annual membership directory, keep our website current, share updates in our newsletter and on social media, and put on smaller, outdoor events – like our annual golf tournament and recent clay shoot.

Our popular bigger events like Shrimperoo, Stone Crab Fest, Steak and Corn, and Salute to Coast Guard will all return soon. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support of the Propeller Club – Port of Tampa.

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# Public Relations & Social Media

From : Barbie Blank

Stay Tuned!

Our public relations committee is working hard to get you more involved!  
For now, follow us on Linked In, Facebook and Twitter!

New Program Coming Soon - Member of the Quarter Spotlight!

