

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROPELLER CLUB HOSTS ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON BENEFITTING TAMPA PORT MINISTRIES & SEAFARERS CENTER

TAMPA, Fla., December 15, 2020 – The Propeller Club – Port of Tampa hosted a socially-distanced Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. This is the Club’s annual benefit for the Tampa Port Ministries and Seafarer’s Center, with attendees bringing gifts for merchant marines visiting the Port of Tampa during the holidays. *(Photo right: Chaplain Steve Finnesy provides update on the Seafarer’s Center)*



Club President Mark Valenti welcomed everyone including Port Commissioners Pat Allman and Hung Mai and former Port and Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra Murman and Captain Matt Thompson – Captain of the Port – Sector St. Petersburg.



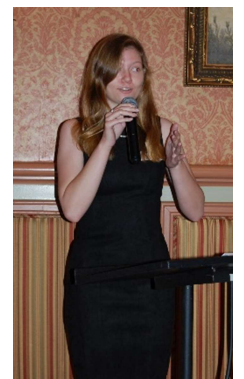
The Mayor of Tampa, the Honorable Jane Castor, delivered the keynote address. Mayor Castor talked about the many challenges the City has faced in 2020, including COVID-19 and its devastating economic impacts. The Mayor said she was proud of the way the community has come together in light of the pandemic and looks forward to a great 2021 – including Super Bowl LV, which will be played in Tampa on February 7.

The Mayor concluded her remarks by thanking the Propeller Club and its members for their great work and commitment to the Port community.

PC President Mark Valenti (with WSP), Mayor Jane Castor and PC 1st Vice President Chris Chambers (with Tampa Electric Co.)

First Vice President Chris Chambers announced the Club’s upcoming events in 2021: **Friday, January 8, 2021** –First Inaugural Clay Shoot – FishHawk Sporting Clays; **Friday, January 29, 2021** – Salute to the Coast Guard Awards Ceremony; and, in February, the Maritime Awards Ceremony. Details on all will be posted on the Club website, www.PropellerClubTampa.com.

Second Vice President Darren Richards introduced eight new members and presented them with the membership pins. Former Jefferson High School Maritime Student Ashley Hallaian, who is now a Senior at SUNY Maritime Academy spoke to us on her achievements at the academy and expressed how grateful she is for this wonderful opportunity thanks to the Propeller Club – Port of Tampa and the Port Tampa Maritime Scholarship Foundation. *(Photo right: SUNY Student Ashley Hallaian)*



Thank all who joined us for such a great event with a great purpose. A special thanks to Mayor Jane Castor for her time and remarks.

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