

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*  
**M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES**  
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*In this issue – Another APL Newbuild//Support for Probe of Spain's U.S.-Flag Ship Restrictions//NDAA Boosts & Extends MSP & TSP//Keel for Next MSC Oiler Laid//Labor-Friendly Gift Ideas//Boston Rep. Sought//Remaining M.E.B.A. Holiday Parties//*

## **APL WELCOMES LATEST NEWBUILD**

American President Lines performed a christening ceremony today for the latest of a series of newbuilds. Incoming L.A. Branch Agent Torey Zingales was part of the ceremony that took place earlier today in the Port of Los Angeles welcoming the PRESIDENT CARTER, part of the ongoing rejuvenation of the company's U.S.-flag fleet.

This is the sixth new ship (following the PRESIDENT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, PRESIDENT GRANT, PRESIDENT REAGAN, PRESIDENT H.W. BUSH and the PRESIDENT MONROE) that APL is bringing into its fleet this year to replace older vessels. The new ships are part of a significant 22-vessel order placed by APL's parent company, CMA CGM, with China Shipbuilding Corporation, with the majority destined for APL's international fleet.

M.E.B.A. Engine Officers on the CARTER, named after 39<sup>th</sup> President Jimmy Carter, include C/E Kevin Parsons, 1<sup>st</sup> A/E Nikolas Reyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> A/E Adam Byra and 3<sup>rd</sup> A/E Tyler Coburn.

The Union has an MOU with APL to allow the company to call an additional rotary Third Engineer billet to perform electrical maintenance and repair duties aboard the ship when an unlicensed electrician is not available. Those members sailing as 3AE with an ETO endorsement under the agreement get 2AE wages. The agreement provides 2AE wages and discharges for those sailing with the ETO endorsement and 2AE license.

The newbuild sisterships are 837-foot 5,598 TEU, 59,052 gross tonnage vessels that can carry 72,963 deadweight tons. The CARTER is propelled by a powerful Winterthur Gas & Diesel (WinGD) 7X82-2.0-HPSCR, LLT, Tier III main engine, delivering 23,500 kW x 70.5 rpm, and achieves a service speed of 21 knots. It features a 5-blade right-handed, fixed-pitch propeller with a diameter of 8900 mm.

M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFOW mariners will continue to crew the replacement ships under the existing agreement with APL.

## **FULL SUPPORT FOR FMC PROBE OF U.S.-FLAG RESTRICTIONS IN SPAIN**

The M.E.B.A., along with other maritime and transportation labor unions, has voiced support for a Federal Maritime Commission investigation into Spain's recent restrictions on port access for ships suspected of transporting military supplies to Israel. The inquiry follows reports that two U.S.-flag vessels, the MAERSK DENVER and MAERSK SELETAR, both crewed by M.E.B.A. officers, were denied entry to Spanish ports. According to reports, a third unspecified vessel was also denied entry.

A spokesperson for Spain's foreign ministry confirmed on November 7 that these U.S.-flagged vessels would not be allowed to dock in Spain, citing a May policy that blocks vessels carrying military cargo destined for Israel from accessing Spanish ports.

The FMC typically investigates policies of foreign governments that could harm U.S. shipping interests. When such practices are found, the Commission has the authority to impose harsh penalties, including daily fines or restricting foreign vessels from entering U.S. ports.

The maritime union letter sent to FMC Chairman Daniel Maffei said, "Such actions by the Spanish government jeopardize the free flow of commerce through the diversion of U.S.-flag vessels while also disrupting shipping operations, in direct violation of international norms and agreements. Maritime labor stands united in its commitment to support the mission of the United States, including the promotion of our nation's economic and national security interests by delivering timely cargo on behalf of the American people. We respectfully urge the FMC to utilize every tool at its disposal under the law to hold the Spanish government accountable and to compel an immediate reversal of this harmful policy.":

Letter signatories besides the M.E.B.A. include the presidents of the AMO, MTD, TTD, MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFOW.

The letter has been posted in full on the M.E.B.A. home page located at [www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org).

## **FY '25 NDAA BOOSTS, EXTENDS MSP, TSP**

On Wednesday, the House passed a sprawling \$883.7 billion defense policy bill after a House/Senate conference agreement ironed out a Pentagon policy package that covers Fiscal Year 2025. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) contains several important maritime provisions including the multi-year extensions of both the Maritime Security Program and the Tanker Security Program with monetary boosts for both.

Importantly, the NDAA incorporates the Maritime Administration authorization bill and contains provisions to increase servicemember pay, modernize ports, improve maritime infrastructure and shipbuilding, and address mariner workforce issues through the reauthorization of the U.S. Maritime Administration (MarAd).

The defense package will also extend the MSP for an additional 5 years (through 2040) and increases the per vessel stipend amount from \$5.3 million to \$6.5 million in the next two fiscal years ('25 & '26) for the 60-ship program along with progressive increases in the additional years. By 2040, the program is authorized for \$7.8 million per ship. In addition, the authorization of the TSP was

extended to 2040 and the per-ship stipend was raised to \$8.1 million in FY '25 & '26 with gradual per-year increases culminating in a \$9.8 million per-ship stipend in 2040.

The TSP is a fleet of commercial U.S.-flag petroleum product tankers, with several M.E.B.A.-contracted company tankers, that support our nation's long-term strategic defense needs. The program helps reduce the U.S. military's reliance on foreign-flag commercial vessels while also expanding the qualified mariner pool.

Port interests also applauded the passage of the bill with its provisions to provide funding to seaports for planning and capital projects through the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) as well as common-sense updates to the Federal government's permitting process for port infrastructure projects through the Permitting Optimization for Responsible Transportation (PORT) Act.

The House passed the bill in a 281-140 vote. The Senate is expected to take up the NDAA next week and will likely stamp its approval upon the bipartisan bill.

The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO) lauded the passage of the bill saying, "As America's largest transportation labor federation, we are pleased that this NDAA will support and strengthen existing transportation programs that are critical to our national defense, including the Maritime Security Program, Tanker Security Program, and Port Infrastructure Development Program. The Maritime Security Program guarantees that trained U.S. citizen mariners will be available in times of crisis or disaster and the Tanker Security Program supports a fleet of tanker vessels that are available to the Department of Defense during a conflict or national emergency...We urge the Senate to pass this legislation and send it to President Biden's desk."

### **BUILDING THE NEXT MSC OILER**

The keel for the future USNS THURGOOD MARSHALL, a John Lewis-class Replenishment Oiler, was laid during a ceremony Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at San Diego's NASSCO shipyard. The ship's namesake, former Justice Thurgood Marshall, was the first African American justice to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. As an Associate Justice for nearly 25 years, Marshall fought for affirmative action, opposed the death penalty, and supported a woman's right to choose. Prior to becoming a Justice, Marshall was a civil rights lawyer, who argued cases against racial disparity. Marshall argued a variety of civil and human rights cases including: *Smith vs. Allwright*, which found that states could not exclude Black voters from primaries; *Shelley vs. Kraemer*, which struck down race-based restrictive housing covenants; and *Brown vs. Board of Education* where the Supreme Court ruled that racially segregating children in public schools was unconstitutional.

John Lewis-class ships (T-AOs) are operated by Military Sealift Command and feature substantial volume for oil; significant dry cargo capacity; and aviation capability. T-AOs provide additional capacity to the Navy's Combat Logistics Force and are a cornerstone of the Navy's fuel delivery system.

### **UNION-MADE GIFTS FOR THOSE ON THE "NICE" LIST**

The AFL-CIO has compiled some gift ideas that will not only reward the people on your "nice" list – it will help union-supported companies. Keep in mind, these are just a few festive samplings of union-endorsed products — there's a whole workshop of options waiting to be discovered!! Here

are a few suggestions of vendors and gift ideas to help guide your sleigh to the perfect Christmas surprises:

**Apparel & Accessories** - AFL-CIO Store; American Roots; Bloomingdale's (NYC); Custom Leather Canada; Eyewear: Ray-Ban sunglasses, Varilux lenses, Kodak, Eyezen+, BluTech eyewear H&M (NYC); Housing Works thrift stores; Joseph Abboud; Macy's; Majestic Athletic; Naturalizer shoes; Nunn Bush shoes; Red Wing Shoes; Timex watches; Wigwam socks; ZARA (NYC). **Big Spender** - Motorcycle and Piano; Harley-Davidson motorcycle; A stay at a union hotel; John Deere lawn mowers; Steinway & Sons piano; A union-built car or truck; Speed Queen washing machines. **Books, Stationery Stores & Subscriptions** - ACCO Brands; Barnes and Noble (seven retail locations have formed a union); Book Culture; Comic books: Seven Seas Entertainment, Image Comics, Tender Claws; Crane & Co.; Goods for the Study; Greenlight Bookstore; Half Price Books (Minnesota locations); Housing Works Bookstore; McKay Used Books; McNally Jackson Books; Politics and Prose Bookstore; Roaring Spring Paper Products; Union newspaper or magazine subscription from The NewsGuild-CWA member media outlet; Yours Truly, Brooklyn. **Beauty Products** - Avon; Caress skin care; ChapStick; Dove beauty products; L'Oréal; Old Spice. **Games & Toys** - Barrel of Monkeys; Battleship; Candy Land; Chutes and Ladders; Clue; Connect 4; The Game of Life; Hasbro board games and toys; Hi Ho! Cherry-O; Magic the Gathering; Monopoly; Mouse Trap; Noble Knight Games; Operation; Pathfinder and Starfinder role-playing games by Paizo; Pictionary; Play-Doh; Risk; Scrabble; Sorry!; Taboo; Twister; Woodplay or ChildLife play equipment; Yahtzee. **Homemade Gifts** - Ornaments using recycled boxes and Trait-tex® yarn; Peanut butter blossoms with Hershey's Kisses; Peppermint bark using Ghirardelli chocolate kisses; Hershey's Kisses Pies with Sara Lee frozen pie crusts. **Kitchen & Homeware** - All-Clad; Anchor Hocking Company; CorningWare; Cutco; Fiesta; Natco Home furnishings; O-I Glass; Regal Ware pots and pans. **Sports Equipment** - American Athletic (Russell Brands); *Archery*: Bear Archery, Trophy Ridge, Whisker Biscuit, Cajun Bowfishing; *Baseball*: Louisville Slugger; *Basketball hoops*: Goalrilla, Goaliath, Silverback, Hoopstar, Goalsetter; *Billiards accessories*: Mizerak, Minnesota Fats, Lucasi, PureX, Rage, Players; *Darting*: Unicorn, Accudart, Arachnid, Nodor, Winmau; *Fitness equipment*: The Step, US Weight, Lifeline Fitness, KettleWorX, Natural Fitness, PER4M; *Game tables (hockey and soccer)*: Atomic, American Legend, Redline, Triumph; *Golf*: MacGregor Golf clubs, Standard Golf, Callaway golf balls; *Indoor table games*: Escalade Sports; *Outdoor games*: Zume Games, Pickleball Now, ONIX Pickleball, Viva Sol, Triumph; *Table tennis*: Stiga US, Ping-Pong, Prince. **Stocking Stuffers** - Bennington Potters pottery; BIC lighters; Colectivo Coffee; Ghirardelli chocolates; Hershey's chocolates; Jelly Belly candies; Klear Vu home textiles; Klein Tools; Klement's Sausage; Nuk baby products; *Ornaments/small gifts*: B-Line Engraving, Wendell August Forge ornaments, Seagull Pewter ornaments; Rayovac batteries; See's Candies; Tootsie Pops; Usinger's Sausage and Smoked Meats. **Tickets** - Meow Wolf immersive entertainment; Plane travel from union-staffed airline or train tickets from Amtrak; Ski passes: Loveland Ski Area; Breckenridge, Telluride Ski, Crested Butte Mountain, Park City Mountain, Big Sky, Purgatory, Steamboat Ski and Stevens Pass resorts; Sporting events by professional athletes represented by: Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA), Major League Soccer Players Association (MLSFA), NFL Players Association (NFLPA), NWSL Players Association (NWSLPA), United Football Players Association-USW, USL Players Association-CWA (USLPA-CWA) and Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA); Theater and live performances: American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA), Broadway, national tours and local Actors' Equity Association (Equity) theater, Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular. **Video Games** - Call of Duty: Black Ops 6; The Elder Scrolls; Fallout 76; Indiana Jones and the Great Circle; Starfield: Shattered Space; World of Warcraft: The War

Within. **Wine, Beer & Spirits (Way Too Many to List)** - August Schell Brewing Company; Bud Light; Budweiser; Budweiser American Ale; Bulleit whiskey; Busch; Captain Morgan rum; Charles Krug; Chateau Ste. Michelle; CK Mondavi; Columbia Crest; Gallo of Sonoma; Icehouse; Michelob; Miller High Life , Miller Genuine Draft, Miller Lite; Milwaukee's Best; O'Doul's; Palmer Vineyard; Paumanok Vineyard; Pindar Vineyards; Red Dog; Rolling Rock; St. Supéry.

Visit the Labor 411 Directory at <https://labor411.org> for more union-made products.

### **BOSTON REPRESENTATIVE SOUGHT**

M.E.B.A. is accepting résumés from an energetic and dedicated member interested in serving as the next Representative at our Boston Union hall. This is a unique and excellent opportunity to provide our Boston-area membership with the support they need to advance their shipping careers.

Those who wish to be considered for this position should send a cover letter and résumé to our Atlantic Coast Vice President Jason Callahan at [jcallahan@mebaunion.org](mailto:jcallahan@mebaunion.org) and 'cc' Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha at [rrexha@mebaunion.org](mailto:rrexha@mebaunion.org). The selected candidate will take over the job at the Boston hall on 12 Channel Street in mid to late January 2025.

### **REMAINING M.E.B.A. HOLIDAY PARTIES**

December 12 - **M.E.B.A. Headquarters & the American Maritime Congress** – Beginning at 5:30 on the HQ Rooftop.

December 13 - **M.E.B.A. Jacksonville** – 2-5 pm – at Pat's Lounge, 4870 Highway Avenue.

December 13 - **M.E.B.A. Seattle** – 12:30 – at the hall.

December 16 - **M.E.B.A. Honolulu** - 10 am–2 pm - at the hall.

December 19 – **M.E.B.A. Houston** – 4-7 pm - at the new hall (6604 South Loop E.)

### **NEXT MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** *(All times are local)*

Monday, January 6 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, January 7 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.**

Wednesday, January 8 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org)**

Thursday, January 9 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300** (Tampa meeting to be held at Coppertail Brewing Company - 2601 E 2nd Ave, Tampa, FL)

Friday, January 10 – **Honolulu@1100**

-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----



***M.E.B.A. does not tolerate assault, or harassment of any kind.  
If you see something, say something – The M.E.B.A. Emergency Hotline  
can be reached at 1-888-519-0018.***

*The M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. M.E.B.A.'s expertise and demonstrated track record of readiness, safety, and loyalty in answering America's call to action in times of both peace and war is unrivaled in the world. M.E.B.A. HQ – Phone: (202) 638-5355; [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org). For publication and related inquiries (and to send photos & hot news tips) contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – [marco@mebaunion.org](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org). Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram. The Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School can be contacted at (410) 822-9600 or [www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org). M.E.B.A. Plans is at (410) 547-9111 or [www.mebaplans.org](http://www.mebaplans.org)*