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## **Seafarers' Center of Beaumont to Celebrate National Maritime Day**

*A memorial ceremony commemorating National Maritime Day, National Armed Forces Day, and National Transportation Week*

BEAUMONT, TX (May 15, 2017) — On May 22, 2017, the Seafarers' Center of Beaumont, located in the Port of Beaumont, will honor the men and women who have built our country through involvement in the maritime industry, transportation industry and the armed forces. The Seafarers' Center will host a memorial service in recognition of National Maritime Day, National Armed Forces Day, and National Transportation Week, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Port of Beaumont propeller.

National Maritime Day serves as a day to recognize those who have contributed to the success of ports around the nation. As economic engines in their respective communities, ports bring the country considerable growth in terms of jobs, economic development, goods movement and international competitiveness. The industry and individuals honored on this day propel the growth of the United States forward and keep this great nation on an upwards trajectory in terms of economic growth.

"National Maritime Day affords us the opportunity to express our gratitude not only to the men and women who ensure the Port of Beaumont continues to thrive, but to those who contribute to an industry that this nation was built upon, that directly impacts millions of Americans each and every day," says Port Director & CEO, Chris Fisher.

Armed Forces Day and Transportation Week are important to the Port of Beaumont and the Seafarers' Center of Beaumont on several levels. As the number one Strategic Military Port in the nation and home to the 842<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Battalion, the port fully appreciates the importance of the armed forces in successfully transporting military units overseas for combat operations, and is grateful for the opportunity to give members of the armed forces and the transportation industry the recognition they deserve.

The impact the transportation industry has on our nation's economic wellbeing cannot be overstated. "As a Port that boasts access to, and relies upon, an extensive rail network, a deep-water channel, and access to major highways, we have a deep appreciation for those who work every day to keep America moving safely and efficiently," says Fisher.

The memorial service will pay homage to the merchant mariners, past and present, who have contributed to the growth of one of our nation's most important industries. In addition to the service, the Seafarers' Center of Beaumont will recognize members of the 842<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Battalion in appreciation of National Transportation Week and National Armed Forces Day and the City of Beaumont will present a proclamation. This event is free and open to the public.

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#### **About the Seafarers' Center of Beaumont**

The Seafarers' Center of Beaumont, a 501(c)3 non-profit, was founded by a group of individuals from maritime and religious communities 45 years ago, in 1972. The center provides seafarers arriving along the Sabine Neches Waterway with personal, practical and spiritual guidance. Services include distribution of donated personal items, shuttle service to places of worship, and distribution of items important to maintaining relationships while out to sea including calling cards, cell phones and access to the internet.

#### **About the Port of Beaumont**

The Port of Beaumont is a deep-water port located in Beaumont, Texas, that specializes in heavy lift, project, dry bulk, liquid bulk, break bulk, and roll-on roll-off cargoes. The Port is responsible for more than 12,608 jobs in the region and approximately \$1.8 billion in economic output annually. The Port of Beaumont handled more than 3.9 million tons of aggregate, grain, steel, forest products, military cargo and liquid bulk in 2015. The Port of Beaumont Channel (public and private terminals) ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of tonnage. For additional information, visit [www.portofbeaumont.com](http://www.portofbeaumont.com).