



The Maritime Minute

News From The Maritime Cabotage Task Force

The Maritime Cabotage Task Force wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

LATEST NEWS: WLUK-TV in Green Bay, Wis., reports Bay Ship Shipbuilding Company recalled 70 workers to ramp up for a winter repair project for Jones Act vessels. “Laid off for months, dozens of workers are once again punching the clock at Bay Shipbuilding Co. in Sturgeon Bay. The company is ramping up its workforce as winter maintenance work gets underway and Bill Walls is filled with anticipation. ‘I was happy, very happy,’ said Walls. Walls is a welder at the shipyard. He was laid off last June.” [Click here to read more.](#)

EMPLOYMENT PEAKING AT GREAT LAKES SHIPYARDS: *Business North* (Duluth, Minn.) reports the 1,000-foot-long Great Lakes Jones Act freighter Edwin H. Gott's arrival at Bay Shipbuilding Company in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., marks the beginning of the busiest time of year for Great Lakes shipyards. “This project and other annual winter maintenance work on U.S.-flag Great Lakes ships will provide jobs for more than 1,200 men and women at U.S. shipyards around the Great Lakes, according to the carriers' association.” [Click here to read more.](#)

CG ADMIRAL CALLS FOSS AN INDUSTRY LEADER: *Maritime Link* reports U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral J.R. Castillo recognized Jones Act company Foss Maritime as an industry leader in safety and compliance. The company's San Francisco Bay Area-based tug group became the first to complete voluntary examinations for all of the vessels in its Northern California group. “The success you have achieved is due in no small part to the investment Foss Maritime has made in safety management. This is an impressive accomplishment for (the company) and will certainly pay dividends as forthcoming towing vessel inspection regulations are enacted,” said Admiral Castillo. [Click here to read more.](#)

COAST GUARD MOVES ICEBREAKER TO GREAT LAKES: For the second year in a row, the U.S. Coast Guard has transferred an icebreaker to the Great Lakes to keep the shipping lanes open and allow U.S.-flag lakers to ensure industries have enough raw materials to maintain production during the winter. In a strong economy, U.S.-flag lakers can move more than 15 million tons of iron ore, coal and other cargos during periods of ice cover on the Great Lakes. The iron ore trade has rebounded significantly this year. Through November, cargos in U.S.-flag lakers are up 85 percent compared to a year ago.

SIU TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE BENEFITS ENLISTED PERSONEL: The Seafarers International Union (SIU) raised \$4,200 in the fourth-annual Toys for Tots drive at the SIU Christmas party in Tacoma, Wash. Alaska Tanker Company of Portland, Ore., matched a portion of funds bringing the total to \$5,000. The donations benefit lower-enlisted personnel through Santa's Castle. Congratulations to SIU and all organizations that participated for giving back to the community during difficult economic times.

DID YOU KNOW? Number of Jones Act vessels engaged in domestic waterborne commerce is 39,000 plus and growing. The current fleet represents an investment of nearly \$30 billion.

The MCTF is the most broad-based coalition the U.S. maritime industry has ever assembled to promote the cabotage laws. Its 400-plus members span the United States and its territories and represent vessel owners and operators, shipboard and shoreside labor groups, shipbuilders and repair yards, marine equipment manufacturers and vendors, trade associations, dredging and marine construction contractors, pro-defense groups and companies in other modes of domestic transportation. These diverse but allied interests share a common goal: to promote the long-standing U.S. maritime cabotage laws. Upon a foundation of U.S. ownership, construction and crews, the United States has built an unsubsidized domestic fleet that is the world leader in efficiency, innovation and safety.