

# THE PORT REPORT



PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

FEBRUARY 2007

## “Berth of Bayport” Celebrations Held



Clear Lake ROTC Honor Guard presents colors.

On-site ceremonies held on February 8 and February 10 marked the long-awaited opening phase of the Bayport Container and Cruise Terminal. In addition, two off-site events associated with the grand opening were held before state lawmakers in Austin and Port of Houston Authority employees in Houston.

About 2,200 people turned out for all four events. The state legislative reception was held on February 6 and attended by about 200 public officials. Ned Holmes, Port of Houston Authority chairman emeritus, led a list of speakers at the February 8 event who told of the economic, employment and environmental benefits Bayport will bring.



Austin Reception, pictured here (left to right): PHA Managing Director Wade Battles, PHA Chairman Jim Edmonds, State Rep. Rick Noriega and PHA Executive Director Tom Kornegay



Bayport speakers pictured above (left to right): City of Pasadena Mayor John Manlove, Harris County Judge Robert Eckels and Houston City Council Member Carol Alvarado

The February 8 celebration included the christening of the CMA CGM vessel *Blue Whale* by its Godmother Annette Edmonds. Mrs. Edmonds deftly cut a red-white-and-blue ribbon tied around a bottle of champagne in a ceremonial launch to what promises to be a long and prosperous journey for the CMA CGM vessel.

Built in Korea by Hyundai Industries, *Blue Whale* is one of twelve 5100 TEU class vessels being built for CMA CGM. Eight of these vessels will

be deployed in the company's Pacific Express service to call Bayport. *Blue Whale* meets strict environmental protection standards: she is fitted with a low exhaust emission incinerator, a domestic waste compactor and an enhanced water- and oil-residue treatment.

Also, the unloading of the first container from the ship was performed by Port of Houston Authority Chairman Jim Edmonds and PHA Executive Director Tom Kornegay. Later that evening, PHA employees gathered at Brady's Landing Restaurant for another briefing on the new terminal.



PHA Employees celebrate at Brady's Landing Restaurant



Gene Green, U.S. Representative



Roger Guenther, PHA General Manager of Container Terminals

On February 10, community members and PHA employees were introduced to the new Bayport management team, headed up by Container Terminals General Manager Roger Guenther. Edmonds says, at full buildout, the \$1.4 billion facility will nearly triple the port authority's container handling capacity. "When fully developed, the terminal will have a total of seven container berths with the capacity to handle 2.3 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) on a complex which includes a 376-acre container yard and a 123-acre intermodal facility," Edmonds said.

# January Port Commission Highlights

Port of Houston Authority Executive Director Tom Kornegay highlighted PHA's 2006 record results in operating revenue, container volume and tonnage at the January port commission meeting. For the seventh consecutive year and the 10th year over the past 11, PHA operating revenue reached a record high in 2006. Un-audited figures show PHA earned \$164.7 million, up from \$154 million in 2005.

### In other actions, port commissioners:

- Authorized the advertising and receipt of competitive sealed proposals (CSPs) for the Cargo Bay Road Gate. The estimated \$1 million to \$2 million project is related to the current secured truck entrance at Cargo Bay Road. The project will involve the construction of a six-lane truck gate, including paving, installation of water and utility lines, a primary and secondary guard booth and other related infrastructure.
- Approved a Memorandum of Agreement with Buffalo Bayou Partnership to support the Buffalo Bayou cleanup and beautification program. PHA will provide \$50,000 and other in-kind services toward the program. The overall goal of the program is to make the Houston Ship Channel and PHA's Turning Basin cleaner, enhance the port's image among visiting customers, officials and residents, and highlight the PHA's contributions to ecological conservation.
- Approved respective one-year subscription service agreements with the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region for \$40,000 and The Urban League for \$25,000. The service agreements will help to promote economic development.



PHA Commissioners  
Jimmy Burke and Steve Phelps



AIIS Vice President Eric Hansen, Susan Bray of AIIS, PHA Operations Manager Walt Kleczkowski, Bob Moore of AIIS, PHA Trade Development Manager Rainer Lilienthal, AIIS President David Phelps and Arnold Nesbitt of AIIS

## Steel Industry Recognizes PHA

President David Phelps and Vice President Eric Hansen of the American Institute for International Steel recently met with the Port of Houston Authority Trade Development Manager Rainer Lilienthal and Operations Manager Walt Kleczkowski to recognize them for their support to the AIIS. Plaques were also presented to the PHA divisions Lilienthal and Kleczkowski represent. The meeting covered topics such as cargo transfer and steel input at the Turning Basin, documentation processes, infrastructure improvements, marine terminal optimization study (MTOMS) and security credentialing requirements. Attendees included representatives from 25 steel and steel-related interests, International Longshoreman's Association and West Gulf Maritime Association.

## SAGA Adventure Sails Into Turning Basin

The 654-foot-long *SAGA Adventure* made its maiden call at the Port of Houston Authority's Turning Basin Terminal on February 13 to usher in a new line of steel service products from China.

*SAGA* is best known as a primary carrier of forestry products, but is expected to bring 150,000 tons of steel to the Port of Houston this year and will work upwards of 300,000 tons over the next three years.

Ricardo Arias, trade development manager for Turning Basin terminals, presented *Adventure* Captain Kumar K. Chandnani with a plaque commemorating the event as Stephen Cutler, general manager, Saga Forest Carriers, looked on.



MV SAGA Adventure docks at the PHA Turning Basin

### Questions?

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### Port of Houston Authority Commission

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