

Mr. Francis Courtenay

International Propeller Club Lifetime Achievement Award



Mr. Francis Courtenay is a distinguished admiralty lawyer in New Orleans, Louisiana where he has served for over fifty years. He is a graduate of the Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1961 and a law degree from Tulane University in 1964. Before beginning his private law practice, he was a Captain in the United States Army. He founded his own law firm in 1971, (Courtenay, Forstall, Grace & Hebert) and managed it for 35 years.

Frank is a Lifetime Honorary Member of the International Propeller Club and has been a longstanding member of the Ports of New Orleans and Mobile. He was President of the Port of New Orleans from 1982 - 1983 and was instrumental in planning three International Conventions in 1975, 2012 and 2019. Since the 1980s, he has intermittingly served on the International Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He served as International President from 1986 – 1988. During his tenure as International Propeller Club, Frank established the first “Salute to Congress,” the maritime industry’s most prestigious and anticipated annual event in the Nation’s Capital. Approaching its 36th year, the Salute to Congress recognizes a Member of Congress who has demonstrated consistent support for the maritime industry and the United States-flag Merchant Marine and, by extension, honors the entire Congress for its support of maritime causes. Frank presented the first award in 1985 to Speaker of the House Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr. In 1987 Frank was selected as the Port of New Orleans Maritime Man of the Year and in 1994 was the International Propeller Club Member of the Year. Today, Frank currently serves as Third International Vice President.

As an admiralty lawyer, he is highly experienced in international trade and business transactions, including wrongful death, personal injury and property damage claims, Jones Act claims, offshore construction claims, and vessel collisions and premises liability issues, as well as insurance coverage issues. Before private practice, he was law clerk to the Judges of the 24th Judicial District Court in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Francis is admitted to all Federal Courts in Louisiana and has been Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubble for Ethical Standards and Legal Ability for over 30 years. He is a member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States, the Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute, and the Transportation Lawyers Association where he served on the Executive Committee from 1998-2000. He received its Distinguished Service Award in 2009.

He is a devote Roman Catholic and a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He is a father of 6, Kristine, Lauren, Stephanie, Buddy, Billy and Jimmy and grandfather to 15. He currently resides in Metairie, Louisiana with his wife of 47 years, Janet Simno Courtenay.

Mr. Courtenay’s continuous dedication and service to the International Propeller Club and the Propeller Club Port of New Orleans have been exemplary and long, and award of the International Propeller Club’s Lifetime Achievement Award is most highly merited.