



Press Release

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Robert R. Barkerding, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans and President of Admiral Security Services honored as Maritime Person of the Year by the Propeller Club Port of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS – The Propeller Club of the U.S. Port of New Orleans honored Robert R. Barkerding, Jr. “Rusty”, Chairman of the Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans and President of Admiral Security Services, as their 59th recipient of the 2017 Maritime Person of the Year Award. The 84th Annual Maritime Person of the Year Gala was held Thursday, January 11, 2018, at the New Orleans Marriott Convention Center, on Convention Center Blvd and was emceed by William “Bill” Baraldi, Propeller Club President.

The evening started with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner and award presentation. Mr. Barkerding was recognized for his contributions to the maritime industry of Greater New Orleans. Ms. Brandy Christian, President and CEO for the Port of New Orleans, had the honor of introducing Mr. Barkerding. The award was then presented by Gala Chairman Sean Duffy, Executive Director of the Big River Coalition.

Mr. Barkerding expressed heartfelt thanks to the Propeller Club’s officers and board for the honor and to his family and colleagues for bearing witness to this deeply appreciated award.

Mr. Barkerding’s message of “36 Months” was further explained to say that in the last three years, the Port of New Orleans has been on a fast and aggressive track designed for one purpose – increasing

international trade and in turn, job growth and economic vitality for greater New Orleans and throughout the jurisdiction. This effort is directly in line with the similar efforts of the International Propeller Club.

He announced that today, Port officials appeared before the New Orleans City Council and by unanimous vote, agreed that the Port would acquire the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad. The acquisition will benefit both local Belt users and the six Class One railroads as we develop a seamless logistics gateway, driving a freight-based economy. The Port will work to improve and grow this railroad while recognizing both its urban location and its nearby neighbors.

Mr. Barkerding went on to say that this kind of momentum and achievement does not happen by accident but from strong leadership, vision and teamwork. He then acknowledged Ms. Brandy Christian's exceptional leadership over the past "36 Months". Further noting that Brandy and her executive team have worked tirelessly to reinvent and reinvigorate the Port of New Orleans culture, vision and mission.

Also in attendance was U. S. Coast Guard Captain Wayne Arguin, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Commander for New Orleans, Port Commissioners Bill Bergeron and Laney Chouest, and Vice-presidents, Michelle Ganon and Robert Landry.

Read full biography [HERE](#).

The Propeller Club celebrates their 90 year existence aggressively promoting the maritime industry through many of its programs and partnering with similar organizations. Their goal is to educate legislators and the public as to the importance and necessity of all waterborne commerce.

Today, the International Propeller Club of the United States is an international business network dedicated to the promotion of the maritime industry, commerce and global trade. There are more than 80 Ports in maritime locations around the world, including almost 30 in foreign cities.

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