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**PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA TO COMMEMORATE FIFTH ANNUAL 'PORTS DAY,' SLATED FOR APRIL 5**

*2020 event recognizes value of Western Hemisphere seaports to COVID-19 response and recovery, supply chain continuity and long-term economic stability*



LaPLACE, LA.

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) – the unified and recognized voice of seaports in the Americas - and its entire hemispheric membership, including the Port of South Louisiana, will commemorate Western Hemisphere Ports Day on April 5 again this year. The annual event recognizes the port industry's role in efficient goods movement, job creation and propelling the economy in nations they serve across the Americas.

This year's Ports Day theme, *On The Front Lines*, focuses on the current COVID-19 global pandemic response and recovery. It's a recognition of the dedication, sacrifice, and professionalism of the port industry workforce in their collective efforts to slow the spread of coronavirus while ensuring a steady flow of vital goods and services.

"We appreciate that AAPA is taking the time to pause and recognize this cause," said Port of South

*America's Largest Tonnage Port*



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Louisiana Executive Director Paul Aucoin. "It is important to take notice of the marine industry and all those who are working on the front lines during these trying times to keep our communities sustained. Our prayers are with all of them and we appreciate their service immensely."

In the U.S. alone, more than 652,000 maritime-industry professionals work every day to ensure that cargo and cruise and ferry travelers move efficiently through the nation's ports. Through passenger and crew screenings, vessel quarantines and other measures, seaports are committed to 'flattening the curve,' both domestically and among their country's critical trade partners around the world.

"In this time of uncertainty and fear about what to expect next, port workers and their logistics partners are laboring around the clock to keep vital consumer goods, medical supplies, energy and raw materials moving," said Chris Connor, AAPA president and CEO. "While taking all necessary precautions against spreading the virus themselves, our maritime workforce continues to deliver vital goods and services, ship exports, and connect farmers, manufacturers, retailers and consumers to the global marketplace."

Mr. Connor added, "As families, businesses and communities begin to recover from the crisis we're all facing, our member ports are ready to deliver the products you need and want, keep your shopping cart filled, and take whatever actions are needed to support a strong, stable economy."

Seaports throughout the hemisphere are honoring the occasion in different ways ... from calling out individual port employees for their selfless efforts during the COVID-19 crisis and creating 'Ports Day' t-shirts for staff to wear, to posting messages on social media of their crisis response efforts and various contributions to their communities.

According to IHS Markit's GTA Forecasting (previously known as IHS World Trade Service), combined international sea trade moving through Western Hemisphere seaports in 2018 totaled nearly 4.2 billion metric tons in volume and US\$3.7 trillion in value. Of that combined total, seaports in Central and South America handled 1.86 billion metric tons of cargo valued at US\$1.17 trillion, while North American seaports handled 2.34 billion metric tons of goods, valued at US\$2.53 trillion.

Within North America, U.S. seaports handled 1.01 billion metric tons of international trade valued at US\$1.95 trillion, while Canada's seaports handled 380.53 million metric tons of goods valued at US\$266.67 billion, and Mexico's seaports handled 352.53 million metric tons of cargo valued at US\$312.91 billion. Regionally, the Port of South Louisiana handled 274.9 million metric tons (303.1 million short tons) valued at over US\$69 billion.

“It doesn’t matter if you live near a seaport or in the middle of the country,” stressed Mr. Connor, “the products you depend on and goods your nation exports primarily move through ports. Quite simply, ports are an indispensable aspect of our lives and livelihoods.

“We encourage you to take a moment to think about the role ports play in your life, your community and the economy, then use the hashtags #SeaportsDeliver and #SeaportsUnited to post your thoughts about ports on social media.”

For more information about Western Hemisphere Ports Day, [click here](#).

#### **About the Port of South Louisiana**

The Port of South Louisiana is a 54-mile port district on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, encompassing the parishes of St. Charles, St. John and St. James. The facilities located within the port’s district consistently handle over a quarter billion short tons of cargo annually, ranking it the largest tonnage port district in the Western Hemisphere (and the 16<sup>th</sup> largest in the world), the nation’s greatest grain exporter, and one of the major energy transfer ports in the United States. Along the 108 miles of deep-water frontage on both banks of the river there are seven grain transfer facilities, four major oil refineries, 11 petrochemical manufacturing facilities and several other facilities for a total of more than 50 docks owned and operated by an impressive group of companies in the Port District, such as ADM, ArcelorMittal, Cargill, DowDupont, Marathon, Shell, Nucor Steel, Occidental, Valero, and Occidental Chemical. The Port also owns and operates the Executive Regional Airport (KAPS). To learn more, visit us at [www.portsl.com](http://www.portsl.com), like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

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