A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Pilots: This is a special season; a time to reflect, appreciate the good things in our lives, and convey best wishes to our fellow man.

As pilots, we have much for which to be grateful. Through hard work, dedication, and perseverance, we have earned the privilege of doing something very few people in the world can do. We are maritime pilots, a profession with a long, proud history of service. The goods that Americans rely upon for virtually every aspect of their lives come into this country aboard large, foreign-flag, ocean-going ships. Similarly, most of the products that the U.S. exports get to their final market place through international shipping. These ships are able to move safely and efficiently in some of the world’s most challenging waterways due to your expertise! While pilots may not always get appropriate recognition, I know that the work you do is vital, and pilots make a real difference every day.

As I said, now is a time to wish others well, and I offer my hopes for a safe, happy, and healthy New Year. As APA President, however, I have a greater responsibility than simply wishing you well. It is my duty to ensure that APA takes actions and pursues policies that promote effective pilotage and improves the safety and welfare of pilots.

I am proud of APA’s ongoing efforts to advance the interests of pilots and piloting and to protect the profession from those who would undermine or weaken it – intentionally or otherwise. We ensure an APA representative attends major meetings, domestic and international, where issues affecting pilots are discussed. We attend these meetings not only to advance issues that enhance navigation safety, but also to correct misinformation about pilots and counter efforts to lessen or even eliminate pilotage standards, or negatively impact pilot safety. A few examples of our efforts are highlighted below.

At IMO, with the support of responsible flag states, we defeated a proposed “interpretation” of the SOLAS pilot ladder regulation (V/23) —a regulation APA worked hard to have strengthened a few years ago. The proposal would have undermined both the letter and spirit of the SOLAS ladder requirements. We also continue to be involved, at various forums, with the development of eNavigation and its associated policies and strategies. Our focus in these discussions is to make sure policymakers understand that while eNavigation has the potential to enhance the quality and delivery of navigation information, it is critical that the expert mariner on the bridge of a ship continues to be at the center of the decision-making process and that all decisions regarding navigation systems/equipment be aimed at facilitating the tasks of the bridge team and the pilot. Finally, as the federal government wrestles with changing “waterways management” priorities based on budget realities, APA is working to educate officials on the need to maintain necessary port and navigation safety infrastructures, including vital floating, fixed, and electronic navigation systems.

Looking forward to the new year, I renew my pledge to work diligently on your behalf as APA advances the interests of navigation safety, pilotage and the personal safety of pilots.

The APA wishes all Members and their families Happy Holidays and a Safe and Healthy New Year!
IMO'S ASSEMBLY CONvenes IN LONDON

The 28th Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) met in London at IMO Headquarters from 25 November to 4 December 2013. Captain Mike Watson attended the meeting on behalf of both IMPA and APA.

The Assembly, IMO’s highest governing body, normally meets once every two years. It is responsible for approving the work program and the Organization’s budget, along with finalizing regulations and recommendations that have been approved by the various committees and subcommittees throughout the previous two years. It also elects IMO’s 40-Member Council, IMO’s senior executive body.

Among the subjects on which Assembly took action were the IMO mandatory audit scheme (which comes into effect in 2016 and will require countries submit to audits of their various marine safety, security and environmental protection regulations), prevention and suppression of piracy, and recommendations for complying with IMO marine casualty investigation guidelines.

The headquarters of the IMO is located in London on the banks of the Thames River.

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ON STATION is published by the American Pilots’ Association, a non-profit professional association composed of groups of state-licensed pilots operating in each of the coastal states, as well as groups of U.S. registered pilots in the Great Lakes region. Each pilot in APA-member groups receives ON STATION, the costs of which are paid from the member’s dues. Any comments, suggestions or questions concerning ON STATION should be directed to the attention of the APA office at the above address.

ANNUAL BRAVERY AT SEA AWARDS PRESENTED AT IMO

At its biennial Assembly meeting, the IMO presented its 2013 Awards for Exceptional Bravery at Sea. Two U.S. Coast Guardsmen were among the award recipients. Picture above, observing the awards ceremony, are (from left to right): Captain Mike Watson (IMPA/APA President), Mr. William O’Neil (former IMO Secretary General), Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos (former IMO Secretary General), and Mr. Mike Vlasto (Chairman of the Trustees of the International Maritime Rescue Federation).

BRAZIL HOSTS MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN PILOTS

In October, pilots from throughout Central and South America gathered in Buzios, Brazil for the 7th Latin American Pilot Forum. The meeting was attended by pilot representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. In addition, IMPA and APA President, Captain Mike Watson; IMPA Vice President and President of the Canadian Marine Pilots Association, Captain Simon Pelletier (Canada); IMPA Vice President Captain Otavio Fragosa; and APA Executive Director - General Counsel Paul Kirchner also attended this important gathering of the region’s professional maritime pilots.

Captain Michael R. Watson, (right) stands with Captain Fabio Mello Fontes. Captain Fontes is the “senior pilot” in the country of Brazil.
HOUSE APPROVES BILL WITH HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND “FIX”

The House voted on October 23, 417-3, to approve the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (H.R. 3080). Among other provisions, this legislation contains language aimed at streamlining the approval process for maritime infrastructure maintenance and improvement projects and increasing the amount of money released for maintenance dredging from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF).

The Senate’s version, the Water Resources and Development Act (S. 601), passed the Senate in May by a similar bipartisan vote of 83-14. While both bills aim to increase funding for dredging, they take different approaches. The House couches the increases in terms of percentages of the total revenues from the HMTF, while the Senate defines the increases in dollar amounts for each fiscal year.

The differences in the legislative approaches must be resolved through a conference. While both chambers have appointed “conferees” to negotiate a compromise, as of the time ON STATION went to print, no resolution has been announced.

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CRITICAL OF COAST GUARD “MISSION PERFORMANCE TARGETS”

On December 11, the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, held a hearing to discuss the USCG’s inability over the past several years to meet its own “mission performance targets” and whether those targets are appropriate.

Subcommittee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) said he is concerned that the Coast Guard itself established the performance targets, yet achieved less than half of the targets in 2012 and has not achieved more than 61% of the targets over the past 5 years. He questioned whether the targets the Coast Guard established are achievable and realistic.

Materials distributed at the hearing show that the Coast Guard indicated that it did not meet the targets, which are used in large part to justify budgets and the acquisition of ships and aircraft, for missions that rely heavily on ships/aircraft (i.e., maritime security, law enforcement, and defense operations), but did meet the targets for missions less dependent on these large and expensive assets (i.e., marine safety, aids to navigation and environmental protection).

CAPTAIN BAILEY TALKS E-NAV WITH MARINE BOARD

Captain Wayne Bailey, Bay and River Delaware Pilot and Vice Chairman of APA’s Navigation and Technology Committee (NAVTECH), spoke at the November 19 meeting of the Marine Board (a subbody of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Science) held in Washington, D.C. Specifically, Captain Bailey was asked to participate in a session titled, “The Future of Navigation in the United States.” Much of the session focused on the Coast Guard’s “Navigation 2025” (NAV 2025), a plan that contemplates the elimination of some physical aids to navigation, greater use of so-called “virtual” aids to navigation, and increased reliance on electronic means to support waterway safety.

Captain Bailey provided his perspective, using the backdrop not only of NAV 2025, but also of the federal government’s proposed disestablishment of the National Differential GPS System and the rejection of the eLORAN program as a backup to GPS. Captain Bailey urged the Coast Guard to exercise caution before moving too quickly on eliminating physical aids. “The replacement of these essential physical objects with electronic representations would undermine the safety and functionality of the entire marine navigation system. Mariners rely upon layers of information to establish their position, and the foundational layer they depend upon most is the physical objects they see out the window...buoys, towers, lights, lighthouses, day marks and shapes.”

“ICE PILOTS” ON THE GREAT LAKES

Captain Robert Krause, President of the Western Great Lakes Pilots, provided the below photo of a recent piloting assignment on a ship near the Sault Ste Marie Locks in Michigan. These locks connect the waters of Lake Superior with Lake Huron.
PILOTS KEY CONTRIBUTORS TO 2013 eNAVIGATION CONFERENCE

Pilots were once again prominently featured in the annual two-day eNavigation Conference held in Seattle, WA. On the same day that Captain Wayne Bailey was discussing eNavigation at the Marine Board meeting in Washington DC (see article on previous page), more than a dozen APA-member pilots from around the U.S., along with nearly as many pilots from Canada, including CMPA President Captain Simon Pelletier, joined other mariners, maritime professionals, and officials from NOAA, Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers for the Seattle conference.

Pilots where not only attendees, several were panel members for various sessions of the conference. APA Executive Director-General Counsel, Paul Kirchner, was a panelist for a session tilted “Challenges and Opportunities for the Private Sector.” Captain Jorge Viso (Tampa Pilots, NAVTECH Chairman, and APA Vice President) and Captain Paul Amos (Columbia River Pilots) also led a session on “Developments with Portable Pilot Units.”

FISH AND WILDLIFE ADDS MORE BIRDS TO “THE LIST”

In November, the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) promulgated a final rule updating the list of migratory birds that are subject to protection under an international treaty. The update increases by 19 the number of birds on the list (to a total of 1,026). This list potentially affects all mariners, including pilots, because, pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, an individual may be held criminally liable for any action — be it intentional, negligent, or purely accidental — that kills, injures, or otherwise “takes” any bird on this list.

STOP THE PRESSES! NOAA TO STOP PRINTING PAPER CHARTS IN 2014

Most pilots have heard by now, but NOAA recently announced that, beginning on April 13, 2014, it will no longer be printing traditional paper charts. The agency will, however, still provide other forms of nautical charts, including “print on demand charts” and versions for electronic charting systems.

TRUSTEES GET DOWN TO BUSINESS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The “off year” meeting of the APA Board of Trustees was held in Washington, D.C. on October 22-23.

Captain Watson began the meeting with the President’s Report. These remarks were followed by the Secretary-Treasurer’s report (by Captain Whit Smith) and reports by each of the regional Vice Presidents and Trustees. These reports provided updates on State and local issues, concerns and priorities. In addition, Mr. Paul Kirchner gave his annual “Executive Director’s Report,” which covered U.S. and international policy and legal developments in pilotage. The Navigation and Technology Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Jorge Viso (Tampa Bay Pilots Association), also held its annual meeting to discuss the latest navigation practices and issues and to share experiences.

The Trustees also heard from Captain Simon Pelletier, President of the Canadian Pilots, senior Coast Guard officials, including Rear Admiral Joe Servidio (Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy), Captain Scott Smith (Deputy Director, Marine Transportation Systems), and Mr. Mike Sollosi and Jorge Arroyo (both from the Office of Navigation Systems).

See page 5 for more from the Trustees meeting, including pictures.
Captain Gary Maddox, recently retired Tampa Bay pilot and long-time APA South Atlantic States Vice President, is awarded “APA Life Member” status by APA President, Captain Mike Watson.

At right, Mr. Paul Kirchner, APA Executive Director-General Counsel, delivers his report to the Board of Trustees.

Captain Watson (left) and Coast Guard Rear Admiral Joe Servidio take questions from Board of Trustee members.

(left) The Secretary-Treasurer’s Report is presented by Captain Whit Smith (Charleston Pilots). Captain Simon Pelletier (President, Canadian Marine Pilots’ Association) addresses the Trustees (below).

Mr. Jorge Arroyo (right) gives extended remarks to NAVTECH, as NAVTECH Chairman Jorge Viso (center) and Mr. Mike Sollosi look on.

Captain Scott Smith gives an overview of the latest Coast Guard policies and projects related to navigation and waterways management.

DON’T FORGET THE APA PAC FUND

Send your voluntary contribution to:
APA Political Action Committee
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APA NEWS

HOUSTON PILOTS RECEIVE SAFETY AWARD

On October 24, the Houston Pilots received the American Maritime Safety, Inc. (AMS) 2013 “Safe Navigation & Operation Award.” According to an AMS press release, the Houston Pilots received this award “in recognition of its implementation of safe working practices that serve to promote safe navigation and operations of vessels calling at the Port of Houston.”

CAPTAIN JOE WARFIELD HONORED FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

From left to right: Captain Mike Morris, President of the Texas State Pilots’ Association (TSPA), congratulates Captain Joe Warfield at an October 17 ceremony in Corpus Christi that celebrated Captain Warfield’s 30 years of service as a Houston Pilot.

CAPTAIN MIKE ROONEY, APA VICE PRESIDENT & NOBRA PRESIDENT, PASSES AWAY AT 53

It is with great sadness that ON STATION reports that Captain Mike Rooney, President of the New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots’ Association (NOBRA), passed away on Thursday, December 5th, following a brief battle with cancer.

Captain Rooney had been a Louisiana Pilot for more than 12 years, serving the past 3 years as NOBRA President. He became APA Regional Vice President for the Gulf States (Louisiana) in 2012, and also served on numerous other bodies, including the Louisiana Water Resources Commission and the Port Safety Council.

Before becoming a pilot, Captain Rooney served in the U.S. Marine Corps and fought in the first Gulf War. He was an avid Auburn Tiger fan and enjoyed fishing, golfing and spending time with family.

Captain Rooney is survived by his wife Tammy; his children: Renee’ Rooney, Shawn Barnes, Maicey Rooney, and Bethany Rooney; his grandchildren: Joseph Rooney, Alcee’ Rooney and Serena Barnes, and his mother, Rosette Valudos Rooney.

The APA officers and staff send sincere condolences to Captain Rooney’s family and friends.

ELECTIONS, SELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

- The new Executive Committee for the Houston Pilots is: Captain Mike Morris (Presiding Officer), Captain Clint Winegar (Executive Committeeman), and Captain Mike Riggle (Boat Keeper).
- The Southeast Alaska Pilots’ Association announced their new Board of Directors: Captain Ed Sinclair (President), Captain Paul Merrill (Vice President), Captain Doug Sturm (Secretary/Treasurer), Captain Norbert Chaudhary (Director), Captain Michael Clinkscale (Director), Captain Fred Montez (Director), and Captain Michael Tamney (Director).
- The Columbia River Pilots’ Association’s 2014 officers are: Captain Paul Amos (President), Captain Anne McIntyre (Vice President), and Captain John Aschoff (Treasurer).

IMPORTANT DATES

April 6-11, 2014: The 22nd IMPA Congress in Panama City, Republic of Panama. Information can be found at: www.impa2014.com.
