

March 2020

DELIVERING THE GOODS

A Newsletter by the Maritime Labor Alliance

Maritime Labor: Delivering Goods 24/7

While much of the economy has shut down or otherwise gone into hibernation as a result of COVID-19, there is one essential United States industry that continues its work uninterrupted and undaunted. That is the maritime industry. The women and men working the docks, ships, tugs, ferries and vessels of all types continue to maintain the flow of essential supplies that sustain our lives. Essential products and commodities are transported by water to keep our communities nourished, industry fueled, and troops overseas provisioned. First responders and essential workers of all kinds commute to work aboard the ferries of our major port cities.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, American maritime labor maintains our logistical lifelines at sea and on the waterfront. In peace and in war, be it torpedoes or the current pandemic, Union labor has always risen to the challenge, gotten the job done and delivered the goods. What does maritime labor require in return? Nothing more than we have ever fought for: safe workplaces, reasonable terms and conditions of employment and the respect and security that all working Americans should have.

Today, at a time when organized labor and collective bargaining rights are under relentless and slanderous attack, we the undersigned organizations write to bring to your attention the fact that Union labor has always made the sacrifices and collective effort necessary to see us through times of national emergency. Today is no different. The women and men loading and discharging cargo and delivering the goods across the waterways of our country and the oceans of the globe are doing their part as they have always done and always will, as long as our nation remains a democracy and respects the rights of working people.

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The Maritime Labor Alliance consists of five leading maritime labor unions: American Radio Association (ARA), Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU), International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (M.E.B.A.), and International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots (MM&P). Together, we represent maritime workers employed in every sector of the industry. Members of MLA unions have served the country on the docks and at sea in peace and war from 1875 to today.