

# MARITIME DAY CEREMONY



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The annual Maritime Day Ceremony on the River was held May 22, 2010, in the Maiden Alley Cinema following the U.S.C.G. ribbon cutting for the new Towing Center of Expertise on Broadway. Rear Admiral Kevin Cook, Director of Prevention, HQ, Washington, D.C. was the keynote speaker at both well attended events.

The Propeller Club, Port of Paducah honored **Mr. Norb Whitlock**, retired executive of American Commercial Lines, Jeffersonville, IN, as MARITIME PERSON OF THE YEAR. This was to honor his exemplary career and contributions to the river maritime industry.

The Propeller Club, Port of Paducah honored **Mr. Ron Hunter**, President and Owner of Hunter Marine Transportation as PORT PERSON OF THE YEAR. This was to honor his entrepreneurship in founding and operating a quality barge company that operates on the Tennessee, Cumberland, and Ohio Rivers. Mr. Hunter recently opened newly constructed operations center in Paducah that is a grand addition to the continuing expansion of the barge line industry in this area.

Both gentlemen were presented Duke of Paducah designations by City Commissioner, Carol Gault.

The event closed with a special treat, the singing of "America the Beautiful" by local singing artist, Samantha Walters..

The Memorial Wreath honoring fallen U.S. Merchant Seamen was carried to a Coast Guard vessel at the foot of Kentucky Ave by Club President, Stan Knight, escorted by two Marine Safety Unit, Paducah active duty personnel and placed on the water by the vessel crew. Taps was played by Mr. John Baer.

The event coordinator was Emily Kelley, Propeller Club Port of Paducah Secretary.



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