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## Port Industry Celebrates Contributions of Veterans

**[Edison, NJ — November 11, 2016]** — The New York Shipping Association (NYSA), the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) and the Metropolitan Marine Maintenance Contractors’ Association (MMMCA) today observed Veterans Day with a celebration of all veterans and the hard work of the many veterans who work in the port industry.

The event, held at GCT Bayonne in Jersey City, included donations to area veterans advocacy groups, the American Legion, GI Go Fund and Backpacks for Life.

“We’re very proud of the number of veterans in our workforce and of their contributions to the port industry,” said NYSA President John Nardi. “These men and women sacrificed for our country and we are honored to be able to give back to them in some small way. Veterans also have the skills and training to excel in the port industry”.

The NYSA has been an advocate for our country’s veterans. In 2013, the NYSA through a collective bargaining agreement with the ILA pledged that 51 percent of all longshore and clerical new hires would come from the ranks of military veterans. Since that time, the NYSA has more than made good on that commitment. NYSA has hired over 400 veterans, winning the prestigious state and national American Legion’s Employer of the Year award for the large employer category recognizing the Association’s commitment to hiring military veterans.

ILA President Harold Daggett said the ILA’s commitment to veterans would continue to grow.

“Our country’s veterans represent the best of what America has to offer,” Daggett said. “When you couple their courage and sacrifice with the unparalleled training they receive as members of the military, it’s no wonder veterans excel as port employees.”

Each veterans’ organization was presented with a check for \$2000. Bob Looby, past State Commander for the Department of New Jersey American Legion who has made it his life’s work to advocate for employment opportunities for veterans, said the port industry have been integral to his efforts.

“The port industry has really stepped up on behalf of our nation’s veterans, not just with these donations, but with its overall commitment to hiring,” Looby said. “Our veterans have served their country and we are grateful to organizations like the NYSA, the ILA and the MMMCA for recognizing the value these men and women bring to the workforce.”

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