

# PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

JOSE D. LEON GUERRERO COMMERCIAL PORT

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## NEWS RELEASE

### Acting Governor Proclaims October 15 – 19 as Guam Port Week

**Piti, Guam, October 12, 2012:** The Port Authority of Guam kicked off its 37th Anniversary Celebration as an autonomous agency with Acting Governor Ray Tenorio proclaiming Oct 15 - 19, 2012 as Guam Port Week. The proclamation signing took place during the opening ceremony held this morning, October 15 at 9:00 AM in front of the Administration Building.

Thirty-seven years ago, the Port Authority was known as the Commercial Port of Guam. By virtue of Public Law 13-87, the Port became a public corporation and autonomous agency and was renamed as the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port in June 2002 through Public Law 26-106.

Guam historically served as a port of call since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and by the 20<sup>th</sup> century the U. S. established the island as its western pacific coaling and shipping station. Today the Port is an important transportation hub linking the CNMI, the Micronesia Island, and expanding Far East markets.

In her welcoming address, General Manager Mary C. Torres commended and recognized the employees for the serious and often hazardous work they do for the community. "It is this dangerous nature of the port business that inspires a working environment rooted in loyalty and trust that is unique at the Port compared with other government agencies," she said. "What has become very apparent to me is that the Port family is very cohesive; they look out for one another, and are extraordinarily dedicated to the agency and the mission of the Port. I am very honored to be a part of the Port Strong Family", she further added.

The year 2012 marks a significant turning point for the Port Authority with significant improvement projects underway including repairs to Hagatna and Agat marina, repairs to F5 pier, and expansion and enhancements to the container yard. By the end of the year, the Port anticipates the purchase of its own cranes. The Board, Management, and employees acknowledge its government leaders, federal partners, the port users group and the community for contributing to the continued success of the Port Authority and the investments made for its future sustainability.

Port Board of Directors Daniel J. Tydingco and Mike Benito presented certificates to employees who completed the apprenticeship program this year, while Acting Governor Ray Tenorio along with Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Senator Thomas C. Ada, Senator Rory J. Respicio, Senator Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr., Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr., Senator Aline A. Yamishita, Senator Mana Silva Taijeron, presented resolutions and certificates to employees who retired and passed on this year.

This week's celebrations were ushered in by a series of activities throughout the past few weeks that brought the Port staff, port users groups, our tenants and partners together for camaraderie, friendly sports competition and casual social gatherings. The culmination of festivities will take place on Friday, October 19, 2012 at the Nikko Hotel where outstanding employees of the year will be recognized.

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