MARCH 2025

Board of Directors

Dorothy P. Harris Chairperson Conchita S.N. Taitano Vice Chairperson Fe Valencia-Ovalles Board Secretary

Port Management

Rory J. Respicio
General Manager
Dominic G. Muna
Deputy General Manager
Operations
Pacifico R. Martir
Deputy General Manager
Administration and Finance

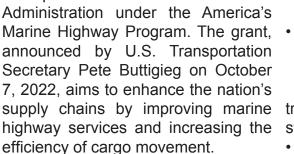


Inside this Issue

- Port's New Tractors
- 50th Anniversary Logo
- Secretary of Defense
- Congressman Visit
- Two Cruise Ships Visit
- Updated Workplace Violence Policy
- Board Resolutions
- Port Bonds Update
- · Chapter Service Award
- GM Speaks to UOG Students
- Telescopic Boom Training for EQMR
- USCG Training
- Farewell Robert Lau
- Drum Lot Cleanup
- Photo Highlights
- Congratulations
- April Birthdays

Port Expands Fleet with Arrival of Nine New Container Yard Tractors

The Port Authority of Guam continues to modernize its operations with the arrival of nine new container yard tractors on March 6, 2025. The new tractor additions are part of the \$5.7 Million grant awarded to the Port by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime



Through the Guam Marine
Transportation Enhancement
Initiative, this funding has enabled
the Port to significantly expand its
fleet of specialized container yard the
equipment, bolstering operations and
strengthening its ability to handle the
cargo efficiently. Today's arrivals bring its grant-funded procurement of vital
equipment.

The \$5.7 Million in federal infrastructure funds has allowed the Port to procure the following equipment to date:

- 40-ton loaded container handlers
 (2) Fully received, valued at \$1,247,000.
- 10-ton empty container handlers
 (3) Fully received, valued at \$687,000.
- 180-foot boom lift (1) Fully



received, valued at \$517,205.41.

 Container yard tractors (9) – Arriving February 28, valued at \$1,791,327.

While the arrival of the yard tractors is a major milestone, the Port still awaits the delivery of:

- Five 5.5-ton forklifts, valued at \$352,015.
- Two 40-plug mobile reefer generators, valued at \$920,000.

The equipment procured through this grant must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act, ensuring that these investments support U.S. manufacturing and infrastructure development.

The addition of these container yard tractors will improve cargo-handling efficiency, reduce congestion, and enhance the Port's overall resilience in supply chain management. As the Port awaits the final pieces of its grant-funded fleet, these strategic investments continue to position Guam as a key player in the region's shipping and logistics network, ensuring the timely and effective movement of goods for years to come.

Port Unveils 50th Anniversary Logo: A Symbol of Legacy, Progress, and Unity

ANNIVERSARY

EON GUERRERO COMMER

The Port Authority of Guam proudly unveiled its official 50th Anniversary logo, on March 26, 2025, marking the beginning of a yearlong celebration of five decades of service to the island and region. The new commemorative logo is the result of a spirited employee-driven campaign that reflects

the Port's commitment to honoring its history while embracing its future.

In the true spirit of unity and collaboration, the Marketing Division facilitated a logo selection process that engaged the Port's entire workforce. A majority of employees, including our board members, responded to the internal survey—a remarkable show of participation and pride in the

agency's milestone. With three design options to choose from, the final winning logo emerged ahead by just two votes, showcasing the diversity of opinion and the collective care put into this momentous decision.

"Having our employees select the 50th anniversary logo underscores who we are as an agency—united, dedicated, and proud of our shared journey," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "This logo is more than a design; it's a symbol of the heart and soul of all of our employees and the progress we've made together."

The logo will serve as the visual centerpiece of the Port's 50th Anniversary celebration, which is being commemorated under the theme: "Port Strong: 50 Years of Grit, Resilience, and Service Fueling Local and Regional Economies, Partnerships, and National Security."

Since its establishment in 1975, the Port Authority of Guam has grown into a modern, vital lifeline for Guam and the region. As the island's only commercial seaport, the Port handles approximately 90% of all incoming goods, playing a critical role in the daily lives of every resident and

business. Over the decades, the agency has achieved numerous milestones, including:

- Launching major capital improvement projects to modernize terminal operations and increase capacity;
- Receiving multiple national awards for financial reporting, safety, and sustainability;
- Strengthening security and disaster readiness as a designated Strategic Seaport;
- Navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic without disruption to essential supply chains.

2025

Throughout it all, the Port has remained rooted in its mission: "To provide efficient, cost-effective and reliable services in the import and export of cargo and the movement of passengers."

The unveiling of the 50th Anniversary logo is just the beginning.

Throughout 2025, the Port will host a series of commemorative events and employee recognitions to celebrate the achievements of the past five decades and chart a course for the next 50 years.

"This logo reflects our story: one of resilience, innovation, and service," said Respicio. "As we celebrate 50 years, we're not just looking back—we're moving forward, together."

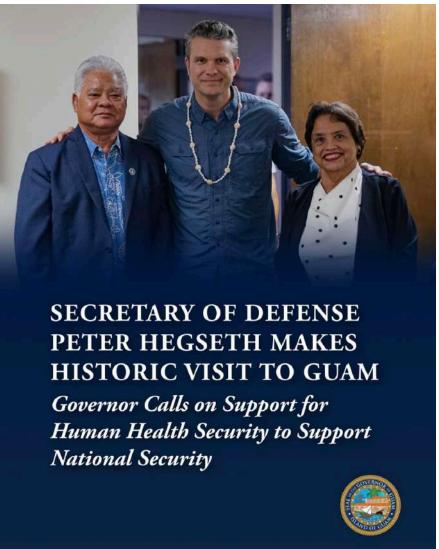


Secretary of Defense Visits Guam

Honorable Peter The Brian Hegseth, Secretary of the Department of Defense, visited Guam on March 27, 2025, underscoring the island's strategic importance in the Indo-Pacific. He toured military facilities and received briefings on regional capabilities, reaffirming Guam's role in U.S. national defense. Governor Lou-Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio provided him with a White Paper urging Department of Defense support to improve operational efficiency, resiliency, and security at the Port of Guam. The Port's modernization needs were presented within the Governor's broader strategic framework for the military buildup, which also includes key priorities such as the development of a new medical complex to serve both civilian and military communities, and addressing other critical areas in need of mitigation to fully support Guam's role in national security and the defense of our nation.

Specifically in relation to the Port of Guam, here are the key infrastructure challenges:

- Aging Gantry Cranes The Port of Guam's three (3) Ship-To-Shore Gantry Cranes are over 40 years old, creating operational and safety risks. Full replacement is critical for sustained cargo throughput and contingency response. If one crane goes down, port operations are immediately crippled and sets the military readiness program back by four years. Lead times for new cranes exceed 18 months, making preemptive investment a national defense imperative.
- Hotel Wharf Rehabilitation This deepdraft wharf, due to its aging and deteriorating condition, is currently inoperable. As a key facility for both commercial and defense logistics, immediate dredging and structural upgrades are essential to maintaining the Port's maritime functionality to support U.S. military operations.
- Fuel Pier Vulnerabilities The Port operates



two fuel piers, Golf Pier and F1 Pier, handling 100% of Guam's fuel imports. Golf Pier is inoperable due to damages incurred during Typhoon Mawar, leaving F1 Pier to handle Guam's and the region's fuel needs. These facilities are in critical condition and need to be modernized to meet safety, redundancy, and military logistics standards.

 Resilience Gaps – Much of the Port's infrastructure are over 40 years old requiring hardening and mitigation against typhoons, seismic events, and cyber threats – heightened by Guam's "Tip of Spear" frontline position.

Strategic Relevance:

 Force Sustainment - As a U.S. forward operating base, Guam plays an indispensable role in projecting U.S. power and maintaining military readiness in the Indo-Pacific.

Story continues on page 4

Designated by MARAD and TRASCOM as one of the nation's strategic seaport, the Port of Guam is integral to the logistics and support of U.S. military operations, including rapid deployments, defense exercises, and humanitarian assistance missions.

- Homeland Defense The Port's strategic significance is amplified as the single point of failure to the sustainment of critical goods, fuel, and DOD cargo. Its capability to move military personnel, equipment, and supplies efficiently is crucial to deterring adversaries and maintaining regional security.
- Supply Chain Resilience With distributed operations expanding in the Indo-Pacific, Guam's Port must be prepared for the anticipated surge.

Action Requested:

 Engage with the Secretary of Transportation to prioritize the Port's upcoming grant request for STS gantry crane replacement, recognizing its dual importance to national defense and

- commerce.
- Ensure the Port of Guam's strategic seaport designation is matched by federal investment to support operational readiness.
- Incorporate the Port into Indo-Pacific posture planning and resilience initiatives in coordination with TRANSCOM, MARAD, and other relevant agencies.

In conclusion, the Governor and Lt. Governor emphasized that the Port of Guam is a critical component of the broader infrastructure needed to support the U.S. military's strategic operations in the Indo-Pacific. Without urgent intervention, its aging infrastructure will continue to limit efficiency, compromise security, and weaken national defense readiness. Within the context of Guam's overall priorities tied to the military buildup, the Department of Defense was urged to support the Port's modernization, resiliency, and sustainability—ensuring it remains a reliable asset in advancing U.S. interests and maintaining regional security.

Congressman Moylan Tours Port Authority of Guam Facilities

The Port Authority of Guam was honored to welcome Congressman James Moylan for an official tour of its facilities on March 14, 2025, providing him with a firsthand look at the critical operations that power the island's supply chain and regional logistics.

During his visit, Congressman Moylan received an in-depth overview of the Port's daily functions, including a close-up view of the agency's gantry cranes—key equipment responsible for handling more than 90% of all goods that enter Guam. As Guam's only commercial seaport and the largest deep-water port in the Western Pacific, the Port plays a vital role not only in serving local residents, but also in supporting federal and military readiness across the region.

Port officials briefed Congressman Moylan on the agency's ongoing efforts to modernize its infrastructure and maintain operational resilience. Discussions included the need for new gantry cranes, continuing capital improvement projects, and the Port's long-term strategy to enhance both efficiency and security. These investments are central to the Port's commitment to remaining "Port Strong" in the face of natural disasters, global



supply chain challenges, and rising demand.

"We appreciate Congressman Moylan's time and interest in seeing the essential work being done here at the Port," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "His visit underscores the importance of continued federal partnership as we work to build a stronger, more resilient Port for Guam and the region."

Congressman Moylan's visit highlights the Port's role as a strategic asset—not just for the island, but as a hub of commerce and national security in the Indo-Pacific.

Second Cruise Ship Arrives at the Port Authority of Guam

The Port Authority of Guam welcomed the CS Le Jacques Cartier on March 13, 2025, the second cruise ship to visit the island this season. The luxury vessel arrived at the Port carrying 116 passengers and 135 crew members.

"The Port Authority of Guam is pleased to welcome the CS Le Jacques Cartier and its guests to our beautiful island. Each cruise

ship visit strengthens Guam's presence as a key destination in the Pacific and contributes to our local economy. I want to commend our dedicated Port employees who work tirelessly day and night to transform our container yard into a safe terminal for cruise ship passengers. Their efforts ensure a secure and welcoming environment without compromising Port security, and their commitment is vital to Guam's success as a growing cruise destination."

Operated by the renowned French cruise line Ponant, the CS Le Jacques Cartier is known for its elegant design, high-end amenities, and intimate



cruising experience. The ship's visit underscores Guam's strategic location and highlights ongoing efforts to promote tourism and economic growth through maritime activities.

During their stay, passengers will have the opportunity to explore Guam's rich culture, scenic attractions, and renowned hospitality.

This latest arrival follows the MS Asuka II, which was the first cruise ship to visit Guam in 2025 on February 23. The MS Asuka II carried approximately 642 passengers and 511 crew members, marking the beginning of an exciting year for Guam's cruise tourism industry.

Third Cruise Ship Arrives to Guam - Le Soléal

The Port Authority of Guam welcomed the arrival of its third cruise ship of the year this morning as the Le Soléal docked at the Port at 7:39 a.m.

Operated by luxury French cruise line Ponant, the Le Soléal brings with it 136 passengers and 159 crew members. The vessel arrived from Yap and is scheduled to depart at 5:00 p.m. this afternoon.

"The arrival of Le Soléal highlights the growing appeal of Guam as a premier destination in the cruise industry," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "Each cruise call not only contributes to our local economy but also gives us the opportunity to showcase Guam's unique culture and warm hospitality to international visitors. I also want to commend our dedicated Port employees, whose hard work and coordination make it possible to safely convert our busy container yard into a secure terminal for every cruise ship arrival."



The arrival of the Le Soléal reflects Guam's growing momentum in the regional cruise industry following record-breaking sea arrivals in 2024.

The Port Authority of Guam remains committed to supporting the tourism industry and ensuring smooth, efficient operations for visiting passenger vessels. Currently, four additional cruise ships are scheduled to arrive this year, including the Seabourn on September 12, Villa Vie Odyssey on October 13, Asuka III on December 30, and Mitsui Ocean Fuji on December 31, 2025.

New Workplace Violence Policy

Effective March 24, 2025, the Port implemented Policy Memorandum No. 2025-GM01 to strengthen accountability, leadership enforcement, and employee protections. This policy is a direct response to past incidents and employee feedback. It is now in full effect.

Key points:

- Zero tolerance for workplace violence, harassment, and harmful behaviors including gossip and passive-aggressiveness.
- All levels of leadership, including the General Manager, are accountable for prevention, intervention, and consistent enforcement.
- Clear consequences for failure to report or act, including disciplinary action
- Formal reporting process with HR and Port Police oversight.
- Weapons strictly prohibited on Port property, with exceptions only for law enforcement.

The updated policy aims to address recent workplace incidents, with an added emphasis

on the negative impact of gossip and disruptive behavior on morale and professionalism. It strengthens reporting procedures, confidentiality measures, and disciplinary actions while also enhancing training and prevention programs.

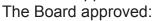
"Workplace violence is not just about physical harm—it includes harassment, intimidation, and toxic behaviors that undermine employee well-being and productivity," said General Manager Respicio. "By updating this policy, we are setting clear expectations and reinforcing our zero-tolerance stance for workplace misconduct."

The updated policy includes feedback from Division heads whose recommendations were included into the final policy. Their feedback helped to ensure clarity, effectiveness, and enforceability across all levels of the organization.

"The success of this policy depends on everyone's input and adherence," Respicio added. "We want to ensure that all employees feel safe, respected, and supported in their workplace."

Board Approves Key Resolutions at March Meeting

The Jose D. Leon Commercial Guerrero Port Authority Board of Directors held its regular meeting on March 27, 2025. during which members unanimously approved three significant board resolutions aimed strengthening port operations, readiness, and economic opportunities.



- Board Resolution No. 2025-10 Petitioning the Guam Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the approval of the award to BME & Sons, Inc. for the Warehouse No. 1 Maintenance Project.
- Board Resolution No. 2025-11 Authorizing the release of the Port Readiness Plan to federal stakeholders including the U.S. Department of Defense, FEMA, DOT, and Port users to secure critical investments in infrastructure, security, and operational resilience.



3. Board Resolution No. 2025-12 – Expanding and promoting in-sourced port services through a revamped special service request process to streamline requests, enhance transparency, and create new revenue opportunities.

During his comprehensive report to the board, General Manager Rory J. Respicio shared several updates including the announcement of the updated workplace violence policy and a new approach of Zero Trust in the Human Resources recruitment process. The Port has adopted a "Zero Trust" approach to its hiring process to

Story continues on page 7

ensure integrity, fairness, and compliance with Personnel Rules and Regulations. This policy is now in effect and applies retroactively to all current recruitments.

Key components:

- Panel-based resume evaluations.
- Applicant name redactions prior to interviews.
- Internal pre-audits before certification of eligibilities.
- Mandatory conflict-of-interest disclosures from raters.
- Strict limits on who may participate in recruitment actions.

The General Manager also gave the board and update on our financial snapshot that shows for the fiscal year to date, the Port reported an operating revenue of \$23.3M, slightly below

budget, with an operating loss of \$1.9M after expenses. Container throughput remains steady, but non-containerized cargo tonnage saw a 21% decrease. The General Manager also gave a grants and projects update and shared progress on multiple ongoing federal grant initiatives, including the EPA Clean Ports Program, the RAISE Grant, and DERA emissions reduction efforts. The Port continues to aggressively pursue funding opportunities to support its modernization goals.

In Old Business discussion, the board also approved a motion to move forward with the creation of Tariff Technician I and III positions, ensuring transparency and compliance with Title 4, Section 6303(d) of the Guam Code Annotated and Port Personnel Rules.

Port Officials Meet with GEDA and Morgan Stanley Representatives on Port Bonds

The Port Authority of Guam welcomed representatives from the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) and Morgan Stanley on March 26, 2025 for a productive meeting with General Manager Rory J. Respicio, Deputy General Manager Pacifico Martir, and other Port leadership to discuss the agency's ongoing bond initiatives.

The meeting focused on the current status and future outlook of the Port's bond program, which plays a critical role in funding capital improvement projects, modernizing infrastructure, and ensuring long-term financial stability.

Representing GEDA was Tina Garcia, who provided insight into the local fiscal framework and regulatory processes tied to bond management. From Morgan Stanley, Aulii Taitano and Margaret Backstrom participated in the discussions, bringing financial expertise and analysis to support the Port's strategic planning.

General Manager Respicio emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with both GEDA and Morgan Stanley to ensure the Port remains on a strong financial footing while meeting the evolving needs of Guam's only commercial seaport.

"These partnerships are essential to the Port's mission," said GM Respicio. "Through careful financial planning and responsible investment, we can ensure that our facilities and operations are



equipped to handle current demands and future growth."

The meeting also covered upcoming milestones in the Port's capital projects pipeline, the timing of future bond actions, and the Port's continuing efforts to maintain its positive financial performance and transparency.

The Port Authority of Guam continues to work closely with its partners to strengthen the agency's role as a critical economic driver for Guam and the region.

Port Honored with 2025 Agency Chapter Service Award by AGA Guam Chapter



The Port Authority of Guam is proud to announce that it has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Agency Chapter Service Award by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Guam Chapter.

This accolade was presented during the 13th Biennial Guam Professional Development Conference (GPDC), held from March 12 to 14, 2025, at the Westin Resort Guam in Tumon.

The Agency Chapter Service Award recognizes outstanding support provided by an agency to the AGA Guam Chapter. Eligible agencies are those that have consistently made significant contributions toward the development and enhancement of AGA's mission. Both public and private organizations are eligible for this honor.

The GPDC 2025, themed "Leading Change: Empower, Innovate & Excel," brought together leaders from business, academia, and government sectors to discuss financial trends, management issues, and leadership topics. Participants had the opportunity to earn up to 24 Continuing



Professional Education (CPE) credits during the conference.

"Receiving the 2025 Agency Chapter Service Award is a testament to the Port Authority's unwavering dedication to advancing government accountability and supporting the professional development of financial professionals in Guam," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "The Port remains committed to its mission of facilitating trade and economic growth while upholding the highest standards of integrity and service."

GM Speaks to UOG Students on Port's Role in Island Economy and National Security

PortAuthority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio delivered an insightful presentation to students at the University of Guam's School of Business and Public Administration (SBPA) on March 12, 2025. Speaking to a packed classroom of students in Professor Ronald McNinch's class, Respicio outlined the Port's critical role in Guam's economy, infrastructure resilience, and national security as part of his address on the topic: "Port Mission – Importance to the Island & Economy."

At the invitation of the Honorable Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Respicio highlighted the Port Authority's role as Guam's only commercial seaport, handling 90% of all goods entering the island and supporting both local commerce and regional military operations. He emphasized the Port's commitment to modernization, sustainability, and workforce development—key priorities that align with the Governor's One Guam Strategic Framework and the Indo-Pacific Strategy.

Respicio also shared the Port's 2023 Master Plan, which focuses on critical infrastructure upgrades, including the replacement of aging gantry cranes, fuel pier rehabilitation, and enhancements to cybersecurity and IT systems. He underscored the urgency of replacing 40-year-old cranes to ensure port efficiency and prevent operational disruptions, citing a Department of Defense (DoD) analysis that warns of potential readiness delays of up to four years if replacements are not secured.

"Guam's economy depends on the Port," said Respicio. "Whether it's food, fuel, or construction materials—everything comes through our docks.



The investments we make today will determine how prepared we are for the challenges of tomorrow, whether they be economic shifts, natural disasters, or national security demands."

The presentation also covered the Port's initiatives in public-private partnerships (P3s) to fund critical infrastructure projects, such as the \$100 million rehabilitation of Hotel Wharf and the \$17.9 million modernization of berths F2-F6. These projects, he noted, are essential to sustaining Guam's commercial and military operations while ensuring long-term economic stability.

Respicio closed his remarks by emphasizing the importance of succession planning and workforce development, ensuring that the next generation of professionals is ready to continue the Port's mission of economic resilience and service to the people of Guam.



EQMR Employees Receive Aerial Lift Training on New Telescopic Boom

The Port Authority of Guam continues to prioritize workforce safety and operational readiness with specialized training for employees of its Equipment Maintenance and Repair (EQMR) Division.

Training began on March 26, 2025, with EQMR personnel participating in a comprehensive Aerial Lift Certification Training conducted by Island Certs, a certified safety training provider. The handson session was held at the Port and focused on the proper use and safety procedures for the agency's newly acquired telescopic boom lift.

The training is part of the Port's ongoing efforts to ensure

that all equipment operators meet industry safety standards while maximizing the capabilities of the agency's upgraded fleet.

"Investing in both equipment and employee training is key to strengthening the Port's resilience and operational efficiency," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "This new telescopic boom enhances our capabilities, and with this training, our team is fully equipped to operate it safely and effectively."



Employees underwent instruction on inspection protocols, safety harness use, maneuvering techniques, and emergency procedures—reinforcing the Port's commitment to a safe and skilled workforce.

The addition of the telescopic boom and the certification training represent another step in the agency's broader initiative to modernize infrastructure and enhance employee proficiency across all divisions.

Port Police and Guam Fire Complete Maritime Safety Training

The Port Authority of Guam, in collaboration with the United States Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, held a recognition ceremony on March 28, 2025, to honor Port Police Officers and Guam Fire Department personnel who successfully completed the Boat Crew Member Course, a nationally recognized maritime training program.

The course, delivered under the standards of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), is a 5-day, 35-hour training designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of maritime first responders. The U.S. Coast Guard conducted the training and it includes instruction in vessel handling, crew coordination, safety procedures, search and rescue operations, emergency response, and maritime law

Story continues on page 11





enforcement support.

The training is a critical part of strengthening Guam's maritime safety network, especially given the island's strategic location and reliance on marine transportation. By completing this rigorous program, participants are now better equipped to respond to emergencies and carry out complex operations in support of port security and public safety.

"This training represents a proactive step toward building a more capable and resilient force on our waterfront," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "We are grateful for the continued partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and for the dedication of our Port Police and Guam Fire personnel who continue to raise the bar when it

comes to maritime readiness."

The following Port Police Officers were recognized for their successful completion:

Police Officer II Michael Franquez
Police Officer II Jonathan Aguon
Police Officer II Reggie Rechebong
Police Officer II Christopher Fruge
Police Officer I Gage Michael Santos
Police Officer I Kyler Candoleta

The Boat Crew Member Course aligns with national standards used by maritime agencies across the U.S. and its territories. This is the latest example of the Port's ongoing commitment to professional development, interagency collaboration, and ensuring the safety of Guam's only commercial seaport.

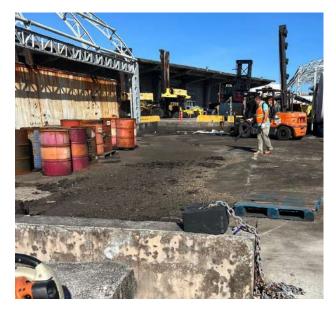
Farewell to our Beloved Brother

Robert Lau retired from the Port Authority of Guam on September 30, 2021 after having served 28 years of government service. He began his employment as a Trades Helper on January 19, 1993 and rose the ranks to Crane Mechanic I, Crane Mechanic II, and has served in a detail capacity as a Crane Mechanic Leader in 2000. In his interest in exploring other positions of the Port, Robert transferred to the Safety division where he then retired as a Safety Inspector II. On March 18, 2025, a brief ceremony was held where Port employees bid final farewell to our beloved brother Robert Lau.



Drum Lot Cleanup

The safety division assisted in the Drum Lot A and B cleanup on March 25, 26 and 27 in preparation for the Coast Guard inspection next month. Deputy General Manager Pacifico Martir also assisted in the cleanup.











March Photo Highlights















April Birthdays

