



# NEWSLETTER

## PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

MAY 2022

### Board of Directors

**Francisco G. Santos**  
*Chairman*

**Dorothy P. Harris**  
*Board Member*

**Dr. Judith P. Guthertz**  
*Board Member*

**Conchita S.N. Taitano**  
*Board Member*

### Port Management

**Rory J. Respicio**  
*General Manager*

**Dominic G. Muna**  
*Deputy General Manager,  
Operations*

**Luis R. Baza**  
*Deputy General Manager  
Administration & Finance*



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### General Manager visits Washington, D.C.



Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio is continuing his efforts on behalf of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and the Board of Directors, to obtain federal assistance to help further the agency's movement toward sustainable modernization.

On his way to Washington DC this month, the general manager stopped in Honolulu, HI to meet with the Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) representatives Nani Shimabuko and Jennifer Moore to discuss USACE's current Guam projects and future partnerships with the Port toward maintaining safe ports navigation and flood control as a critical concern to all watercraft usage.

Former Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, in her capacity as Governor Leon Guerrero's Director of Washington, D.C. Liaison Office, joined PAG officials to meet with representatives of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and the Defense Logistic Agency (DLA) wherein the team discussed the Port's critical need to procure gantry cranes as the three operational cranes have exceeded their useful life span. Respicio also

*DC continued on page 2*





discussed how the Buy American Act requirement hinders the Port's efforts to obtain three replacement cranes as the Act requires that the Port purchase the cranes from within the United States. Due to the equipment's non-availability domestically, the Port is seeking a waiver for the Buy American Act constraint to move forward with procuring gantry cranes abroad.

Each of the three agencies Respicio met with are all in support of the Port's forward movement toward procuring the critical cranes as it is essential to mission capabilities of Guam and the Region.

"Meeting with key staff members of the USACE, SASC, NAVFAC, and DLA has opened up the way in seeking additional opportunities for federal funding within INDOPACOM and the Pentagon," said Rory J. Respicio. "Our team has presented a solid case in requesting funds for the Port's Readiness Plan and sustainability initiatives."

Respicio was joined on this trip with Chief Planner Joe Javellana III and Capital Improvement Projects Coordinator Clarence Lagutang.

### PAG welcomes board member Conchita S.N. Taitano



**C**onchita S.N. Taitano is now the newest member of the Port Authority of Guam Board of Directors.

Taitano was confirmed on June 2, 2022 by the Guam Legislature. She has been appointed to serve for a period of three years commencing January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 to fill the seat of Isa Marie Koki whose term has expired.

Recently retired in February 2022, Taitano was an administrator with the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (Guam EPA) serving the department for more than 25 years. She worked as the Air and Land Division Administrator overseeing the Air, Hazardous Waste, Pesticides and Solid Waste Programs and was instrumental in the closure of Ordot Dump and the opening of the Layon Landfill. Taitano received her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Masters of Science degrees from the University of San Francisco and studied Environment and Sustainable Development from the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan.

Prior to her career in the environmental field, Taitano was a high school math and science teacher. In a civic capacity, she is a past president for Soroptimist International of the Marianas and currently a member of the State Rehabilitation Council as a disability advocacy representative. She is also the founding president and current Board Member for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Pacific Basin Chapter and has served as past president for the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO).

## Senator Wilson advocates for Port expansion

U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, wrote a letter to Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander United States Indo-Pacific Command, raising a critical point that funding the Port's needs, such as three new gantry cranes, rehabilitation of its wharves and the replacement of 50-plus year old facilities is critical to the military's mission on Guam and in the region. Wilson made known, in his letter to Aquilino, his support for the expansion of the Port Authority of Guam in the context of the important role it provides in the military's IndoPacific strategy.

"I believe the Port of Guam should be viewed as part of the solution for the rapid discharging and deploying of military assets and its commodities in the Pacific, especially with regard to the Pacific Deterrence Initiative," Wilson wrote. "The implementation of the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and its components including the Guam Defense System requires that we, once again, provide the resources to build capacity and resiliency at the Port of Guam by replacing its aging 50-year-old facilities. In particular, I have been informed there is a pressing need for the acquisition of three new STS Gantry Cranes and the hardening of its wharves. As a member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I understand the significance of Guam in our INDOPACOM strategy and am committed to advocate for Guam's needs."

## Port Police join Law Month celebration

Every year the nation celebrates Law Day on May 1st to commemorate the rule of law and how it contributes to the freedoms that we all share. But for Guam, the celebration has expanded from Law Day into Law Month with the District Court of Guam, Judiciary of Guam and Guam Bar Association hosting a series of events throughout the month of May.

This year, PAG Port Police participated in the Hagan Special Olympics Kickball Tournament, which took place May 22, 2022 at the GFA Soccer Field. Hosted in conjunction with Special Olympics Guam, island-wide law enforcement personnel, volunteers, and supporters came together to cheer on their athlete at the non-competitive games.

The event was kicked off by opening remarks made by the Hon. Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Judge of the United States District Court of Guam, Atty. Jacqueline Terlaje, President of the Guam Bar Association Board of Governors, and Camilo Lorenzo,



Special Olympics Guam Chairman of the Board. Also at the event were display booths by the U.S. District Attorney's Office, Customs and Border Protection, Guam Police Department, Guam Fire Department, Department of Corrections, Department of Youth Affairs, ATE, FBI, Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement, and others.

Port Police personnel were in attendance to root for the athletes and to assist in the day-long event. Our Port Police Division also sponsored 10 athletes for the Hagan Games with \$352 they raised during a bake sale they hosted on May 16, 2022.



Port Police's Bake Sale raises \$352 to sponsor 10 athletes.

## Port donates face masks to five southern schools



- Talofofo Elementary School Acting Principal Mike Perez.

MU Lujan Elementary School Principal Elias Taisipic received five boxes of 3M masks accounting for 2,500 masks.

Port employees who worked with school administrators to coordinate PAG's mask donations include Paul Santos, Betty Ann Wusstig-Perez, Ricky Smith and Da'ok Charfauros. "Thank you to all who helped organize this event on behalf of all PAG employees," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "Giving masks to our children so they may continue to remain safe as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic together show how much our Port employees care about our community. The Port Strong Spirit shines so bright when we continue to give back to the people of Guam."



On Monday, May 2, 2022, the Port Authority of Guam donated more than 25,000 3M masks to a total of five southern elementary and middle schools. The recipients on behalf of each school who received twelve boxes amounting to 6,000 masks were:

- Inarajan Elementary School Principal Mike Perez;
- Inarajan Middle School Principal Derrick Santos;
- Merizo Martyrs Memorial School Counselor Cabrini Rivera; and

## Training: OSHA Forklift Training & Hoisting, Rigging and Signaling Safety Training

Management believes every employee must be provided with opportunities for continuous growth and development in order to maintain pace with the new challenges in the maritime industry environment. After two (2) years of no training activity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, trainings sessions were held in April and May to comply with the Code of Federal Regulations on training certifications for employees who occupy certain maritime positions. The training instructor for both courses was Mr. Bill Shippy of Omega Safety Compliance.

### OSHA Forklift Training

On April 19 - 22, 2022 and May 20, 2022, four (4) OSHA Forklift training sessions occurred at the Port. For 4 hours a day, participants received classroom instruction and hands-on training operation of a forklift. This training is geared toward employees who operate a forklift in their line of duty. Upon successful completion of the training, the employees received their forklift certification.

A total of 79 participants attended the forklift course.

### Hoisting, Rigging & Signaling Safety Training

Two (2) Qualified Hoisting, Rigging and Signaling Safety training sessions occurred on May 9 and 13, 2022. The training provided classroom instruction on how to secure material that is to be moved by a crane or other lifting cargo handling equipment and how to avoid common hazards associated with rigging. It also provided awareness to the participants on how improper rigging of cargo could result in a fall and cause serious injury or death to individuals who are working near the load. The training was four hours a day and was held at the Port Training Room. It is geared toward employees who perform rigging duties in their line of work. Upon completion of the training, the employees received certification for rigging.

There were 28 employees who participated in this training and received certification.

## Multi-Agency Strick Force Operation



Pictured: CGIS, Special Agent Tony Blas, MST2 Greg Bloom, MST3 Sean Lynch, MST3 Nicole Forester-Bennett and Port Police Lt James Sandlin

In conjunction with the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA), Port Police participated in the Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO) conducted within the Port yard. The operation was a three-day long stint wherein participating agencies collaborated in an effort to enhance the safe movement of cargo while deterring and detecting contraband and the brown tree snake from moving through the Port. The main objective of MASFO is to ensure compliance with federal and territorial regulations pertaining to the safe shipment of cargo by leveraging the jurisdictional authorities of all participating agencies.



A semi-truck driver exiting the Port Authority of Guam that morning was arrested by Port police after officers allegedly found a small amount of drugs and drug paraphernalia indicating personal use during an inspection.

conducted a field test with the substance in the small clear bag and the paraphernalia and the items resulted in a presumptive positive for methamphetamines. The amount of illegal drugs allegedly discovered was reflective of personal use only.

During the operation, Port police officers were searching the cab of a semi-truck in the outbound area of the terminal when they discovered a small resealable plastic bag that allegedly contained crystal methamphetamine, also known as “ice.” They also allegedly discovered drug paraphernalia. Officials from the U.S. Coast Guard

Kyle Marcus Cruz, 31, of Dededo was booked and released in connection with possession of a Schedule II controlled substance.

“This arrest is the result of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio and our board’s directives to provide all possible support needed by Customs and the U.S. Coast Guard to prevent drugs from entering our island through Guam’s ports of entry, so this partnership the Port has built with the U.S. Coast Guard and Guam Customs is really only three years in the making,” said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. “We will continue to work with all local and federal law enforcement partners on these random and routine inspections, and thankfully to date there has been no evidence that drugs are coming through the Port Authority of Guam. We will do everything possible to keeping the Port safe and to continue this Administration’s efforts to secure our borders.”



## Demolition of Sunriser Canteen



Today, all signs of the canteen have been removed. An inspection of the area made by the Port Engineering staff revealed two concrete walls behind the building that would have to be demolished and the slope that would need to be stabilized.

In September 2021, an electrical fire broke out at the Sunriser canteen located across the Port Administration Building. The blaze which took several hours to put out, completely destroyed the building and all its contents.

As the fuel pipelines located under the building belong to Tristar, the Port partnered up with the owners to share the costs of \$16,000.00 to demolish the building, demolish two concrete walls behind the structure, stabilize the slope and remove/dispose of debris. This job was performed by UMS Heavy Equipment.

## Congratulations on your retirement



Mr. Bartolome Sepulia, an employee of the Port Authority of Guam, retired May 21, 2022, after 16 years of government service.

He began his public service career as an Equipment Operator II (Casual) in December 14, 2005 and in February 2007 he was employed as a full-time employee occupying a Crane Mechanic II position. He transferred to the Fleet Maintenance Section in March 2017 as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic I and was promoted in August 2021 as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic II.

During his tenure with the Port, he earned highly satisfactory performance ratings and received Outstanding Work Center of the Quarter in April 2007.

The Port Board of Directors, management and employees congratulate Mr. Sepulia on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for the 16 years of hard work and dedicated service to the people of Guam.

## Alisha graduates with honors

### SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**HERMINIA DIERKING SCHOLARSHIP**

**AG A CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP**

*Mariah Castro*  
UOG Accounting Major

*Tiffany Concepcion*  
UOG Public Admin Major,  
Health Services Admin Minor

*Alisha Candoleta*  
GCC Accounting Major

Congratulations to Alisha R. Candoleta, (Accounting Technician II, Financial Affairs Division) for a milestone achievement in obtaining her Associate of Science in Accounting with Honors from the Guam Community College on May 13, 2022. Raising a family and working full time at the Port, Alisha managed to fulfill this goal through hard work and determination. She was on the President's List and received the PTK Golden Opportunity Award and AGA Chapter Scholarship.

Alisha also found time to become a member of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) and the Association of Junior Accountants (AJA). Awesome job Alisha! You are a testament that hard work and perseverance pays off. Congratulations on a job well done!

## Governor lifts COVID-19 restrictions

Port employees joined Governor Lou Leon Guerrero on May 3, 2022 as she officially lifted the mask mandate that was in place for two years due to the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

Representatives from the different divisions of the Port joined hundreds of other Government of Guam health and law enforcement personnel for the governor's press conference held on the front lawn of the Governor's Office in Adelup on May 3, 2022 as she signed Executive Order No. 2022-13, which lifted the requirement of wearing masks in public places.

"Rescinding the mask mandate neither restricts individuals from continuing to wear a mask, nor prevents the practice of other mitigation strategies in public spaces," said Governor Lou Leon Guerrero. "I encourage our community to continue to implement these strategies for themselves, in consideration of their circumstances and comfort level."

The governor's order said that businesses are allowed to require masks and other pandemic safety measures, subject to local and federal law. The island's outdoor mask mandate, and social distancing requirements for businesses were phased out on April 19.

"Although the restrictions have been lifted, I encourage everyone to



continue to use sound judgment to ensure that we remain safe for our families and for those we work with," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "COVID-19 is still here and we are not out of the woods."

## Photo highlights

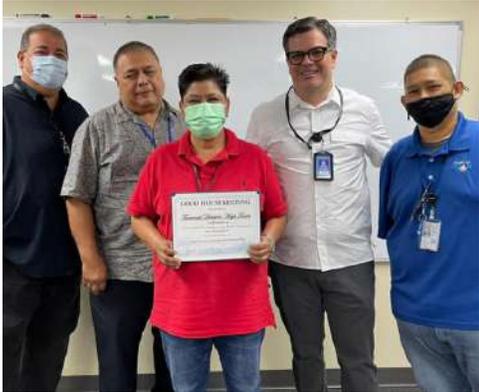


Congratulations to the winners of the 2nd Quarter for the following categories:

Employee of the Quarter: Antony B. Leon Guerrero (Cargo Checker) and David S. Roberto Jr., (Crane Operator);  
Good Housekeeping Work Center: Procurement Division and Operation Manager's Office; and  
Outstanding Work Center: Procurement and Supply Division and Welding Shop

Your dedication, commitment and enthusiasm to your job remains an inspiration to all PORT employees.





Congratulations to our Financial Affairs Controller Jojo Guevara for officially becoming a certified Maritime Port Manager (MPM) and certified Maritime Port Executive (MPE) through the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA). Jojo attended Part II of the week-long intensive training course designed to give port professionals hands-on experience and the tools necessary to excel in the industry, learning about environmental considerations, trade patterns, global supply chain, labor relations, operational challenges, technology and more.



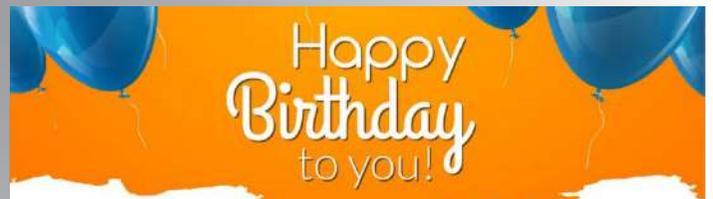
The Relay-for-Life “Fight for the Future” culminating event is scheduled for Saturday, July 30, 2022 from 2pm - 8pm at the Skinner Plaza in Hagåtña. Our goal this year is to be able to donate \$10.00 per employee and with 369 employees at the Port Authority of Guam, our goal this year is to reach \$3,690.00.

Let’s remember loved ones lost and honor survivors by reaching this goal.

Please coordinate participation/donation with Betty Ann by their respective deadline:

- T-Shirt Orders by June 6
- PAG Donation by June 24
- Luminaria Bag by July 8.

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS



- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Carol V. Jenkins        | Betty Ann P. Wusstig-Perez |
| Higinio N. Camacho      | Robert D. Quinata          |
| Earl T.L. Aquai         | Devin Jess Cruz            |
| Jose A. Ulloa, Jr.      | Alisha R. Candoleta        |
| Antonio Q. Untalan      | Helen M. Matthews          |
| Vincent J. Asanoma      | Jeannie A. Martinez        |
| James A. Sandlin        | Tanya L. Chargualaf        |
| Joshua T. Tuituu        | Nathaniel A. Diaz          |
| Corrina H.C. Quinata    | Kirida Ha’ani Charfauros   |
| Antony B. Leon Guerrero | Erwin Jan H. Adonay        |
| Troy S. Patterson       |                            |