



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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PORT OF BALTIMORE CELEBRATES NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

Public Enjoys Free Expo Showcasing Local Maritime Heritage

BALTIMORE, MD - The Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore celebrated National Maritime Day today with a free expo featuring several ships, a unique tour of the first nuclear-powered merchant ship, and maritime-themed exhibits. The free, family-friendly event also included a National Maritime Day ceremony held onboard the *NS Savannah*, one of only four nuclear-powered ships ever built. The event, now in its 11th year, was hosted by the Baltimore Port Alliance.

The ceremony onboard the *NS Savannah* recognized the 55th anniversary of the ship's first port call to Baltimore. U.S. Maritime Administrator, Retired Rear Admiral Mark H. "Buz" Buzby, was the keynote speaker. The event included a wreath laying and a water cannon salute honoring fallen merchant mariners. National Maritime Day, which falls on May 22, is the only day of the year that the *NS Savannah* is open for public tours. It was officially deactivated in 1971 and since 2008 has been moored in its current location in Baltimore.

In addition to the *NS Savannah*, the Liberty Ship *John W. Brown*, as well as tug boats, pilot boats, fire boats, and Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers vessels were on hand. More than 60 maritime-themed exhibitors were present with plenty of activities for all ages.

In 2018, the Port of Baltimore handled a record 43 million tons of cargo worth a record \$59.7 billion. Among the nation's ports, the Port of Baltimore ranks first for autos and light trucks, roll on/roll off heavy farm and construction machinery, imported sugar and imported gypsum. It ranks second in exported coal.

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