

Celebrating 90 Years



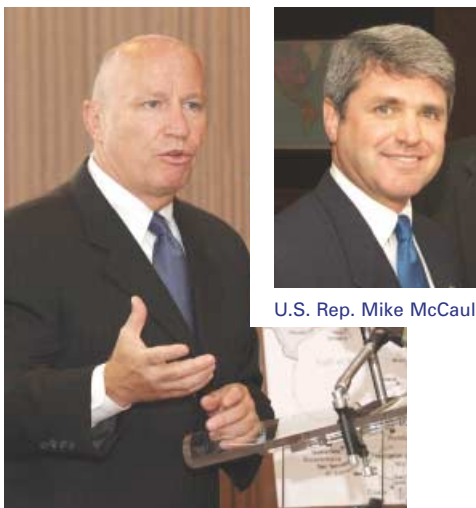
of Service to the World

# THE PORT REPORT

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

JULY 2005

## BRADY, McCAUL TOUT CAFTA



U.S. Rep. Mike McCaul

U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady

During a press conference at the PHA on July 18, U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady and U.S. Rep. Mike McCaul called for support of the Dominican Republic/Central America-Free Trade Agreement, or CAFTA. Congress is expected to vote on the trade pact later this summer.

Brady and McCaul noted that the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua comprise a fast-growing regional market that buys approximately \$15 billion in U.S. goods each year. Consumers in this region actually spend \$1.36 on purchases of U.S. goods compared to every \$1 that U.S. consumers spend on Central American products.

By opening markets and eliminating tariffs on a wide range of goods and services, Brady and McCaul said CAFTA will create jobs, advance business opportunities, and enhance economic growth in Houston and throughout Texas.

In 2003 alone, Texas exporters sold \$1.4 billion in goods to the region. Nearly \$996 million of those goods were shipped through the Port of Houston. Exports accounted for 93 percent of that trade.

## 2005 INTERNS MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

The Port of Houston Authority's 14 summer interns had the opportunity to meet the port commissioners and express their gratitude during the monthly meeting in June. Small Business intern Jared Lofton spoke on behalf of the interns, thanking the PHA for the valuable internship experience necessary for success in today's work force.

Although the internship program is for students who are permanent Harris County residents, it reaches far beyond. This year's interns attend a wide range of colleges throughout the U.S. and are working in various divisions throughout the PHA.

The PHA started the internship program last summer to provide hands-on experience to students in a professional environment.



Pictured back row (l to r.): Commissioner Jim Fonteno, Jeneane Thomas (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Jocelyn Nichols (University of North Texas), Nyla Haque (St. Mary's University School of Law), Commissioner Jimmy Burke, Gregory Gabriel (Prairie View A&M University), Chairman Jim Edmonds, Executive Director Tom Kornegay. Middle row: Commissioner Cheryl Thompson-Draper, Melvin Gentry (Prairie View A&M University), Charlene Mary James (Hollins University), Andrew Black (Texas A&M University at Galveston), Leila Quezada (University of Houston), Commissioner Janiece Longoria, Jared Lofton (Texas Southern University), Commissioner Kase Lawal. Seated: Allison Pollock (Texas A&M University at Galveston), Alan Zhao (University of Houston), Daisy Ortiz (University of Houston), Toan Tran (University of Houston-Clear Lake), and Marnine Thomas (Texas Southern University).

## JUNE PORT COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS



- KCI Special Cranes Corporation was awarded nearly \$17.9 million contract for 12 diesel electronic container yard cranes for Bayport.
- BRH-Garver Construction received the commission's top ranking for a potential contract to build a lift station and force main at Bayport. Estimated cost range: \$1.4 million to \$1.6 million.
- The PHA was authorized to advertise and receive CSPs for the potential purchase of 20 terminal chassis for Bayport. Estimated cost: \$430,000.
- The PHA was authorized to advertise and receive CSPs for the potential purchase of six yard tractors for Bayport. Estimated cost: \$420,000.
- The PHA was authorized to advertise and receive CSPs for the potential wharf construction and dredging of Bayport. Estimated cost range: \$25 million to \$27.5 million.
- The PHA was authorized to advertise and receive CSPs for the potential development of the site and installation of utilities at Bayport. Estimated cost range: \$10 million to \$11.2 million.
- The PHA was authorized to advertise and receive CSPs for the potential purchase of two empty container handling machines with the option for one additional machine for Bayport. Estimated cost range: \$750,000.
- Terra-Mar/US Laboratories received the commission's top ranking for a potential professional engineering services contract for materials testing related to the construction of Bayport.
- The PHA was authorized to issue a RFQ for materials testing services at Bayport.
- The PHA was authorized to advertise and receive CSPs for the potential construction of interpretive canoe trails in the Atkinson Island demonstration marsh. Estimated cost: not to exceed \$80,000.

## DELIVERING HELP FOR HOUSTON'S HUNGRY ANNUAL PHA FOOD DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS

The outpouring of generosity among port employees and business partners resulted in the collection of 500 pounds of non-perishable food item donations and \$1,128 in cash contributions (enough to purchase \$28,200 worth of food) to the Houston Food Bank. For a second year, PHA's Community Relations and Training and Development departments coordinated the port's participation in KHOU Channel 11's Spirit of Texas Food Drive.

Several PHA employee volunteers delivered the food to the television studio escorted by Chairman Jim Edmonds, who made a live on-air appearance. The Houston Food Bank distributes 27 million pounds of food each year, helps 200,000 needy people per month and serves 400 hunger-relief programs in an 18-county service area.

Barbours Cut employees delivered 500 pounds of food and \$371 in cash to Boys & Girls Harbor in LaPorte.



## PHA'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS GARNERS AWARDS

The PHA's public affairs team, directed by Argentina M. James, took home eight awards from the Houston Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America during its annual banquet in June at the Downtown Aquarium Restaurant. The division received three gold awards, four silver awards and one bronze award. The contractors who contributed to the award-winning entries included Gilbreath Communications, David Bray Photography, and Esther di Ipolyi & Associates.

PHA Publication Specialist Liz Johnson received two individual silver awards for her magazine feature story "Mighty Tidy: Garnering Awards, Guzzling Garbage," and for her work on the PHA advertorial section in *Gulf Shipper*.



### QUESTIONS?

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