October 12, 2026

To: Commissioners and Port Directors/Managers
From: Eric ffitch, Executive Director
Subject: ***Award Nominations: Port of the Year***
WPPA Life Member Award
Outstanding Service to the Industry Award
WPPA Winter Scholarship

The Association has a celebrated tradition every fall of taking the time to reflect on those individuals and ports whose efforts deserve special recognition from their peers. The WPPA Education Foundation is also continuing its tradition of handing out the Winter Scholarship.

Over the past twelve months, together and separately, we have accomplished some great things. With so much good work going on around us, and so many good people to work with, we now ask that you take a few minutes and consider who – or which port – you consider to be worthy of receiving official and public recognition for their work.

As you reflect, please consider putting names forward for our three primary categories: Port of the Year; WPPA Life Member; and Outstanding Service to the Industry. Nominations must be in the Association's office/email no later than **3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2nd** to be eligible for Executive Committee action.

Further, as noted, our solicitation for applicants for the Winter Scholarship award will follow the same timeline. Look out for another email providing details on that, so you can be sure to highlight the opportunity for any colleague or partner who you think is deserving and interested.

Port of the Year Award

The WPPA Executive Committee is *now accepting nominations* for the 2026 Port of the Year. Since 1987, the Port of the Year Award is to recognize a member port that has demonstrated exceptional success in our industry.

The recipient will be awarded an individual plaque at the Annual Meeting, the port's name will be added to the plaque in the WPPA office, and we will hang a port photo in the lobby of the ports building.

Any port is welcome to submit a nomination for either itself, or another WPPA port member. Please limit the number of pages to four and explicitly describe the reasons for the nomination. Reminder: it is not necessary to "generate" political support for a nomination, as the Executive Committee will make its decision based on a port's clear merit.

Life Member Award

The WPPA Executive Committee is also accepting nominations for Honorary Life Members. As stipulated in the WPPA bylaws, nomination for such membership shall be made by letter to the Executive Committee from a WPPA member and shall state in detail the qualifications of the nominee. The qualifications shall include the following criteria: The individual must have served as an officer or committee chairman or employee of the association, and/or performed extraordinary service for the Washington public port industry.

Honorary Life Members have full privileges of committee membership and participation in WPPA activities.

Outstanding Service to the Industry Award

In 1995, the Executive Committee approved the establishment of the "Outstanding Service to the Port Industry" award. The intent is to provide recognition to commissioners and staff, upon retirement or departure, who have provided "a significant and meaningful contribution to the success of a public port district or the public port industry at the local, national, or international level."

All nominations for Port of the Year, Life Membership, and Outstanding Service to the Industry will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. These awards will be presented during the awards breakfast at the Annual Meeting on Friday, December 11th at the Hilton Vancouver. **Please send all nominations via email to: mlill@washingtonports.org.**

Nominations must be received by the Association's office/Mandy's email by 3:00 p.m. on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, to be eligible for Executive Committee action.

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