

Forth Ports supports Merchant Navy Day

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Forth Ports supports flag hoisting on Merchant Navy Day

for UK seafarers

On Merchant Navy Day tomorrow (3 September) Forth Ports will fly the Red Ensign flag at the ports of Leith, Grangemouth and Dundee to raise awareness and say thank you for the UK's ongoing dependence on Merchant Navy seafarers.

Forth Ports is supporting a nationwide call from the Seafarers UK charity and the Merchant Navy Association for the UK Merchant Navy's official flag to be flown on public buildings and landmark flagstaffs tomorrow to mark Merchant Navy Day.

Captain Bob Baker, Chief Harbour Master at Forth Ports said: *“As one of the UK's largest port groups, it is important that we give our support and thanks on Merchant Navy Day to acknowledge the work of seafarers for this country. As well as our three ports raising the Red Ensign on the 3rd of September, my team will also be fundraising for the Seafarers charity.”*

The charity's president, **HRH The Earl of Wessex**, has endorsed the campaign, saying: *“On this Merchant Navy Day, I very much hope you will support this campaign to remember the sacrifices, salute the courage and support the future of the often unsung personnel of our Merchant Navy.”*

Seafarers UK is a leading grant-making charity that helps people in the maritime community, by providing vital funding to support seafarers in need and their families. Merchant Navy Day has been commemorated since 2000 on 3 September, the anniversary of the sinking of the SS Athenia, the first British merchant vessel lost during

World War 2.

- Ends -

Further information:

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National Campaign PR Contact

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Notes for Editors

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More than 400 local authorities throughout the UK have been invited by Seafarers UK and the Merchant Navy Association to participate in 'Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day'.

The 'Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day' Pageantmaster is Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR, phone 07737 262913, email pageantmaster@mac.com

Merchant Navy Day has been commemorated since 2000 on 3 September, the anniversary of the sinking of the SS Athenia, the first British merchant vessel lost during World War 2. www.merchantnavyfund.org/merchant-navy-day

About Forth Ports

Within and around the Firths of Forth and Tay, Forth Ports Limited manages and operates an area of 280 square miles of navigable waters, including two specialised marine terminals for oil and gas export and provides other marine services, such as towage and conservancy.

Forth Ports owns and operates eight commercial ports in the UK – six on the Firth of Forth – Leith, Grangemouth, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy - Dundee on the Firth of Tay; and Tilbury on the Thames. www.forthports.co.uk