



The

www.seafarers.org

Volume 73, Number 12

December 2011

Seafarers Log

Official Publication of the Seafarers International Union • Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters/NMU, AFL-CIO

New ATB Joins SIU-Crewed Fleet

Crowley Maritime Adds Tug Legacy, Barge 750-1

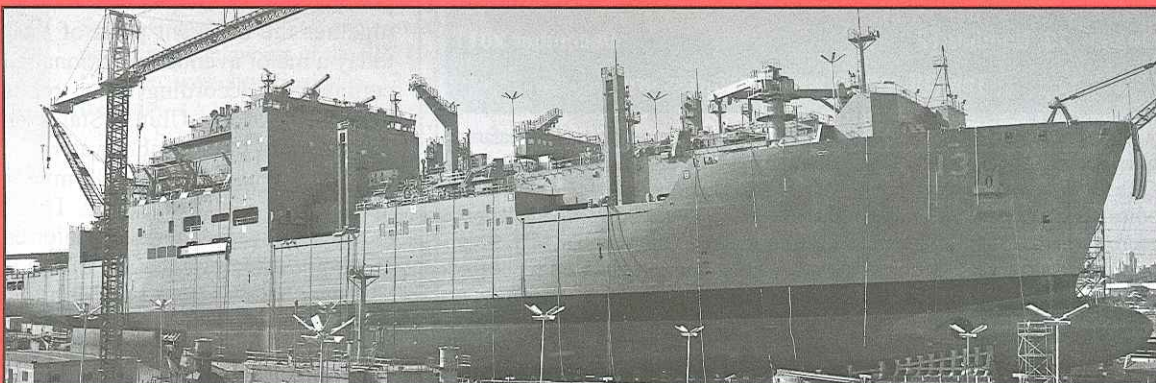
The first in a new class of articulated tug-barge units built for SIU-contracted Crowley Maritime – the *Legacy/750-1*, pictured immediately below – was christened Nov. 3 in New Orleans. The vessel will sail in the Jones Act trade. In the group photo, Crowley Chairman, President and CEO Tom Crowley (sixth from left) poses with his wife, Christine, and the crew of the new ATB. In the photo at right, Christine Crowley breaks a bottle of champagne over hull of the *Legacy*. Page 3.



USNS Medgar Evers Christened

Navy Welcomes CIVMAR-Crewed T-AKE Vessel

Members of the SIU Government Services Division will sail aboard the Military Sealift Command's newest dry cargo/ammunition ship (abbreviated as T-AKE), the *USNS Medgar Evers* (below), which was christened Nov. 12 in San Diego. The vessel is the thirteenth in the Lewis and Clark-class. In photo at left, Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers and ship sponsor, breaks the traditional bottle of champagne against the hull at the General Dynamics NASSCO Shipyard in San Diego (Photo by Charlie Neuman, San Diego Union Tribune). Page 3.



Season's  Greetings

Crowley Maritime Welcomes Newest ATB

State-of-the-Art Legacy/750-1 Celebrated in New Orleans

SIU-contracted Crowley Maritime Corporation, as part of its cutting-edge new vessel building program, christened its largest and fastest articulated tug-barge (ATB), the *Legacy/750-1*, Nov. 3 in New Orleans.

The high-capacity tank barge can carry up to 330,000 barrels of petroleum products. The



The tug *Legacy* is part of Crowley's new-build program.

16,000-horsepower tug can generate speeds of 15 knots or more, making the ATB an industry leader, according to the company. When coupled together, the vessels measure 674 feet in length—only 23 feet shorter than One Shell Square, the tallest building in New Orleans. The platform's design, construction and systems exceed industry standards for the safest possible transportation of petroleum and chemical products, the company reported.

"This class of ATB is among the largest, safest and fastest in the trade," said Crowley's Chairman, President and CEO Tom Crowley. "We are raising the bar in terms of reliability, cargo flexibility and environmental friendliness through our industry-leading new-build program. And the investments we are making will serve the needs of our customers for many years to come."

The *750-1* was built by Halter Marine Inc., of Pascagoula, Miss., and the *Legacy* was constructed by Dakota Creek Industries, Inc., in Anacortes, Wash. The *750-1/Legacy* is the first of three U.S.-flag 750-Class ATBs to be built for Crowley. Two more—the *Legend/750-2* and *Liberty/750-3*, which also will boast union crews—currently are under construction and are scheduled for delivery between the second half of 2012 and the first half of 2013. All three ATBs will be operated in the Jones Act U.S. coastwise trade by Crowley's petroleum services group.

These three new vessels will bring Crowley's total ATB fleet to 17, including four

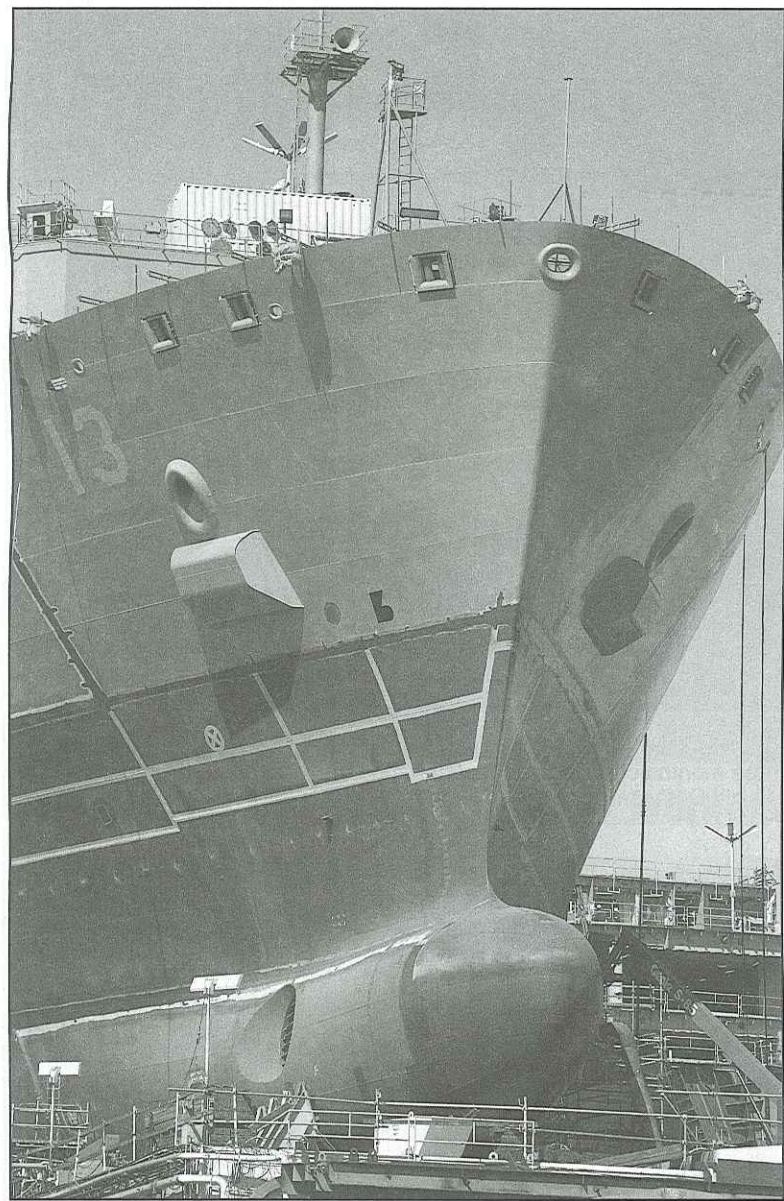


SIU VP Gulf Coast Region Dean Corgey (eighth from left) and New Orleans Port Agent Chris Westbrook (left of Corgey) joined members of the *Legacy/750-1*'s union crew for this photo shortly after the vessel's christening.

155,000-barrel and 10 185,000-barrel ATBs. The *750-1/Legacy* will be operated by Crowley for Marathon Petroleum under a long-term charter arrangement.

Vessel sponsors Christine Crowley, wife of Tom Crowley, and Carole Shaffner, wife of Senior Vice President of Transportation and Logistics George Shaffner of Marathon Petro-

leum Corporation, performed the time-honored tradition of christening the vessels. More than 200 guests, including SIU Vice President Gulf Coast Dean Corgey and New Orleans Port Agent Chris Westbrook, friends and employees from Crowley, the shipyards and vessel charterer, Marathon Petroleum, attended the event. A celebratory reception followed.



Finishing touches are added to the new ship a few weeks before its christening. Designated T-AKE 13, the 689-foot ship continues the Lewis and Clark-class tradition of honoring legendary pioneers and explorers. The ship is named in honor of slain civil rights leader and Army veteran Medgar Wiley Evers, who is especially remembered for his efforts to end segregation at the University of Mississippi in the 1950s and for his opposition to Jim Crow laws in the 1960s. Evers was appointed Mississippi's first NAACP field officer in 1954 and held the position until his assassination in the front yard of his Mississippi home the night of June 12, 1963, by White Citizens' Council and Ku Klux Klan member Byron De La Beckwith. Evers' murder, which occurred only hours after President John F. Kennedy delivered a televised, pro-civil rights speech, was mourned nationally. (Photo courtesy General Dynamics NASSCO)



Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of civil rights activist Medgar Evers, delivers remarks during the christening ceremony as MSC Commander Read Adm. Mark Buzby applauds. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Christopher S. Johnson)

NASSCO Christens USNS Medgar Evers

The *USNS Medgar Evers* (T-AKE-13), the newest ship in the U.S. Navy's Lewis and Clark-class of dry cargo/ammunition ships operated by the U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC) and crewed in the unlicensed positions by members of the SIU Government Services Division, was christened Nov. 12 during a ceremony at the union-contracted General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego.

"I christen you *USNS Medgar Evers*," said Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of the ship's namesake, as she broke the traditional bottle of champagne against the vessel's bow. The *Evers* was launched Oct. 29 and is scheduled for delivery to MSC in spring 2012. When accepted and fully manned, the platform will be crewed by 124 civil service mariners and 11 Navy sailors, according to MSC.

"This technological marvel will carry the strong name of Medgar Evers, as well as the amazing spirit and expertise of the American people, across oceans and seas to every corner of the world," said Navy Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby, commander, MSC, to an audience of more than 1,000 people who braved the rainy morning to attend the event. Ceremony attendees included the Evers family, NAACP and other civil rights leaders from around the country, California Gov. Jerry Brown, distinguished guests from the U.S. military and maritime industry and NASSCO employees who built the ship.

"*USNS Medgar Evers* and its MSC civil service mariner crew will be indispensable to the Navy by daily performing the many tasks required to keep our combat fleets on station, ready to face any aggressor, anywhere in the world," Buzby said.

"This type of ship is the glue that holds the Navy together," said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, the event's guest speaker. "Ships such as the *USNS Medgar Evers* allow us to remain forward deployed by providing ammunition, fuel and supplies to our ships around the world."

"This is truly a wonderful day, one that will go down in the history books and one that will remain in our hearts forever," said Evers-Williams during her remarks to the crowd.

The *USNS Medgar Evers* is the thirteenth of fourteen projected dry cargo/ammunition ships built for use by MSC's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force and Maritime Prepositioning Force. Vessels assigned to this program deliver ammunition, food, fuel and other supplies to U.S. and allied ships at sea, enabling the Navy to maintain a worldwide forward presence. Maritime Prepositioning Force ships—many of them crewed by SIU members—are continuously deployed to strategic locations worldwide, carrying U.S. Marine Corps cargo ready for rapid delivery to Marines ashore.