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Shipbuilders Council of America Announces New Chairman and Vice Chairman, and New Safety Award at 2018 Annual Spring Meeting

WASHINGTON – The **Shipbuilders Council of America (SCA)**, the national trade association representing the U.S. shipyard industry, announced new leadership and a new safety award during the Association's annual spring meeting in Washington, D.C. Terry O'Brien Vice President of Austal will take over SCA as Chairman and President and CEO Ben Bordelon of Bollinger Shipyards will serve as Vice Chairman.

Welcoming the new leadership at the meeting, **SCA President, Matthew Paxton** said, "I have worked with both Terry and Ben for many years now. They have decades of experience in the maritime and shipbuilding industries, and a keen knowledge of the hard-hitting issues that we face. I am more than happy to have them in major leadership positions within the SCA, and I'm really looking forward to working with them in their new capacities as Chairman and Vice Chairman."

Mr. Paxton also noted in his remarks that a new safety award - **Significant Safety Achievement** - will be given to yards that have zero recorded fatalities for the year, and a Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) of 1.0 or below. A key pillar of the shipbuilding and repair industry is safety. In fact, the safety record of the industry leads other heavy manufacturing industries by implementing highly specialized training programs, and it continues to lower rates of injury year over year. SCA is a leader and partner with OSHA and other safety organizations to continue to support and promote strong safety practices and policies.

The **Significant Safety Achievement** award will be added to the other two safety awards - **Excellence in Safety** and **Improvement in Safety** - that are given annually for enhancement of operations and promotion of safety and accident prevention. This year at SCA's Spring Meeting 27 awards were given for exceptional safety practices.

In addition to recognizing members for exceptional safety records, SCA honored **U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Roger Wicker (R-MS)** with the organizations' prestigious **Maritime Leadership Award**, which are given to exemplary leaders from Congress who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and support of the U.S. shipbuilding and repair industry.

Nearly 100 SCA members convened on Capitol Hill during the annual meeting to meet with Congressional leaders and discuss the status of the U.S. shipbuilding and repair industry and to bring awareness regarding the industry's critical role in America's national and economic security. Other maritime champions, Congressional and Administration officials, spoke to SCA's membership including:

- Congressman John Garamendi (D, CA-03)
- Secretary of the Navy, Richard V. Spencer
- Congressman Rob Wittman (R, VA-01)
- Senior Analyst for Naval Forces and Weapons- CBO, Eric Labs
- Congressman John Rutherford (R, FL-04)
- Specialist in Naval Affairs- CRS, Ronald O'Rourke



SCA Chairman,
Terry O'Brien



SCA Vice Chairman,
Ben Bordelon

- Congressman Alan Lowenthal (D, CA-47)
- Congressman Bradley Byrne (R, AL-01)
- Congressman Garret Graves (R, LA-06)
- Program Executive Office Ships, Admiral William J. Galinis
- Vice Commandant of the USCG, Admiral Charles Michel
- Assistant Commandant for Acquisition & CAO, USCG Rear Admiral Michael Haycock
- MARAD Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift, Kevin Tokarski

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About the Shipbuilders Council of America (SCA)

SCA is national trade association representing the U.S. shipyard industry. SCA members constitute the shipyard industrial base that builds, repairs, maintains and modernizes U.S. Navy ships and craft, U.S. Coast Guard vessels of all sizes, as well as vessels for other U.S. government agencies. In addition, SCA members build, repair and service America's fleet of commercial vessels. The Council represents 41 companies that own and operate over 80 shipyards, with facilities on all three U.S. coasts, the Great Lakes, the inland waterways system, Alaska and Hawaii. SCA also represents 110 partner members that provide goods and services to the shipyard industry. Follow SCA on Facebook and Twitter @ShipbuildersUSA.