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Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society Names Dennis Rochford As 2006 “Man of the Year”

PHILADELPHIA – The Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society (PPMS), a non-profit association, today named Dennis Rochford, President of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, as its “Man of the Year” for 2006. The award will be presented at the Society’s 71st Annual Dinner on April 27, to be held at the Ballroom at the Ben in Philadelphia.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in the maritime industry. “Dennis Rochford has diligently served the Delaware River port community,” said PPMS President Russ Larsen. “In particular, over the last several years he has taken the lead on behalf of the tri-state maritime community in the effort to deepen the main shipping channel to 45 feet,” he said, citing the fact that the channel deepening project is among the most important issues confronting commercial cargo businesses today. Rochford is also recognized for his successful work in coordinating a national coalition to fight restrictive tariffs on steel cargoes moving through U.S. ports, as steel is a key cargo at Delaware River Ports. “His efforts and those of the coalition members resulted in repeal of the tariffs and lower costs for shippers and consumers alike,” Larsen said. In addition, Rochford served as the ‘Voice of the Port’ during the recent controversy surrounding the potential acquisition of P.O. Ports by Dubai Port World, working to raise awareness among legislators, local governments and the media on the facts of the issue. “It is for these and countless other initiatives spearheaded by Dennis Rochford and the Maritime Exchange that we are pleased to honor Dennis as our Man of the Year,” said Larsen.

The Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay is a non-profit trade association representing port businesses in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware. Its mission is to promote and protect waterborne commerce. “I am sincerely honored by this award,” Rochford said, “and want to acknowledge that the Exchange is only able to achieve its successes because of the strong support of our nearly 300 members and the thousands of workers who rely on maritime commerce for their livelihoods.”

The Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society is dedicated to aiding, advancing, assisting, encouraging, promoting and otherwise supporting the development of the Ports of the Delaware River & Bay; cooperating to that end with other ports in furthering the American Merchant Marine and such other national and local projects as may be of benefit to the Ports of the Delaware River & Bay; and promoting sociability, developing a fraternal spirit and interchanging information and ideas among persons engaged in marine activities in the Ports.