

Rockford Receives MARITIME PERSON OF THE YEAR 2001 Award



DSPC Executive Director R. Adam McBride presents the POW Maritime Society's Maritime Person of the Year Award to Dennis Rochford, the president of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay.

Dennis Rochford, president of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, was honored as "Maritime Person of the Year 2001" by the Port of Wilmington Maritime Society at their 24th Annual Dinner, at the Hotel duPont, on November 14. Executive Director of the Diamond State Port Corporation Adam McBride presented the award to Mr. Rochford for his great efforts and commitment to foster commerce through the ports on the Delaware River, including the Port of Wilmington.



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The award was created in 1999 to recognize those individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to development and progress at the Port of Wilmington.

In his presentation, Mr. McBride noted, "Dennis Rochford was the one to recognize the Port of Wilmington's role on the Delaware River and recommend the inclusion of Wilmington as a member of the Maritime Exchange." He went on to explain how Rochford, as president of the Exchange had lead significant campaigns to benefit the entire port community, including the promotion of economic development for the Delaware River ports, the improvement of security measures, continuation of the use of methyl bromide as a fumigant for imported fruit and produce, promotion of free trade legislation, and support of the project to deepen the Delaware River ship channel.

"Dennis Rochford earned the Maritime Award for his leadership to protect the import steel trade through the Delaware River ports in the face of increasing trade restrictions on this commodity," noted Port of Wilmington Maritime Society chairman H. Hickman Rowland.

Steel imports handled by the Port of Wilmington have always been a significant contributor to the Port's annual

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cargo tonnage and revenue and recent federal trade restrictions on steel imports have caused a decline in those figures. In the past year, Dennis Rochford relentlessly advocated the free and unrestricted trade of steel to federal government officials and legislators in Washington, D.C., and to elected officials in the tri-state capitals. His efforts were successful in the formation of a national steel coalition to promote the benefits of steel imports. Rochford has also promoted information technology development at the Maritime Exchange and at the Delaware River ports. Upon joining the Maritime Exchange in 1998, Rochford headed the development of a computer network to clear cargo through U.S. Customs. Today, the Maritime Exchange's TRAC's online system is a model for ports' nationwide for automated cargo clearance.

Dennis Rochford joined the Maritime Exchange in 1988 and became its president in 1994. He served as chairman of the North Atlantic Port Association's Maritime Committee and is a founding member of the National Association of Maritime Organizations. He is a member of the Diamond State Port Corporation's Advisory Board, and a member of the Mid-Atlantic District Export Council. Rochford is a graduate of LaSalle College, where he was an ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate. He served in the US Army as a captain in command and general staff positions in Germany and Vietnam. He has an MBA degree from Temple University. Dennis Rochford and his wife, Nancy, reside in Wilmington, Delaware.

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