



George P. Livanos to be remembered at World Maritime Day Event Protégés Honor his Legacy at NAMEPA Anniversary

September 15, 2008 – **NAMEPA** will posthumously honor George P. Livanos; and his protégés will pay tribute to their mentor at the first North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) Awards Dinner being held in conjunction with the 2008 World Maritime Day Observance on October 23rd. George P. Livanos was the founder of the MEPA Movement just over 25 years ago.

George P. Livanos (1926-1997) was born in New Orleans. During World War II, he served in the American army in Japan. In 1946, he received a degree in economics from the University of Athens and in 1949 founded his own company, Ceres Hellenic Shipping Enterprises, Ltd. of Piraeus, Greece. George P. Livanos managed virtually every facet of his shipping empire; and, with over 100 ships, had the largest Greek-owned fleet at that time. He was passionately involved in the protection of ocean and coastal waters throughout the world, which included the creation of the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA), the precursor to the nearly 10 MEPA's which exist internationally today, including the one year old NAMEPA.

Three of his protégés will join together on October 23rd to proudly sponsor the dinner and honor his contributions to their careers and, to a much greater extent, the worldwide commercial maritime industry. Nick Fistes of GrandUnion/NewFront, Nicholas Livanos of Kyla Shipping and Christopher Bastis of SeaGroup will offer their reflections of the man and his profound influence.

“George P. Livanos was in fact a mentor to many people and organizations, and a significant inspiration to all who were fortunate enough to have met him”, stated Christopher Bastis, head of SeaGroup, a U.S. based representative of Ceres. “He was extremely generous with his time, his talent and his insights. He had a vision towards the industry which is being realized and understood today; a vision of cleaner seas and a shared responsibility for its sustainability and well-being.”

“I am honored to be asked to speak of George P. Livanos,” reflected Nick Fistes. “He believed in a maritime industry that could self-regulate, operate in a responsible fashion, and receive the respect and esteem it deserves. Through his efforts creating the MEPA movement, and through organizations such as INTERTANKO, these beliefs are becoming a reality.”

“Mr. Livanos represented the highest ideals in shipping, and implemented them in practice and in his training of his people”, observed Nicholas Livanos. “Those exemplary practices and passion for the environment form the cornerstone of our activities today.”

Joining the sponsors will be Dimitris Mitsatsos, Executive Secretary of HELMEPA, who was at Mr. Livanos' side from the beginning of HELMEPA; and who will be sharing his memories of him.

NAMEPA Co-Founder and Chairman Clay Maitland remarked: “It is fitting that NAMEPA recognize George P. Livanos on the occasion of its first anniversary. I was fortunate to meet with Mr. Livanos nearly 30 years ago in Geneva when he was conceiving HELMEPA, and am proud to see its fulfillment here in North America.”

A lifetime achievement award will be presented by NAMEPA to the family of George P. Livanos.

The North American Marine Environment Protection Association was officially launched at the World Maritime Day Observance in New York on October 25, 2007. In keeping with the mission of MEPAs worldwide, its overall aim is to increase environmental awareness and motivation of the human element within shipping and land-based industries that have a vested interest in preservation of the marine environment. More specifically, NAMEPA has the goal of educating the wider public and school communities about the critical importance of the world’s oceans to mankind. Through its strategic alliances with port chaplains and industry and marine interests, NAMEPA reaches seafarers and port communities in most ports in North America. Additionally, through its alliances, NAMEPA will connect with over 3 million children with the message of protecting the marine environment.

The NAMEPA Environment Awards Dinner is being held at the Union League Club in New York on October 23rd. For table reservations and information, contact rlambert@namepa.net.

NAMEPA is an industry led initiative to “Save the Seas”, and welcomes members who share this mission. For more information, go to www.namepa.net.