



Port of Pascagoula names retiring John Crane Jr. honorary Harbormaster

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John Crane Jr., left, is shown with Port of Pascagoula Director Mark McAndrews after a recognition ceremony. (April Havens/ahavens@al.com)

PASCAGOULA, Mississippi -- Port of Pascagoula leaders today honored John Crane Jr., who has worked with the port from his position at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mobile District

for more than 15 years, by making him an honorary Harbormaster.

Crane, who is retiring, has worked with the Corps since February 1974 and has served as project manager for the Pascagoula navigation project since 1997.

He has played a major role in many of the port's projects, Jackson County Port Authority Commissioner Charles Persons said, and he has been "a big asset."

"It's a huge loss to us to see you go," he told Crane.

Crane said the recognition "very special" to him.

"I appreciate it more than you know," he told those gathered for the meeting and reception that followed.

Crane's son and wife were in tow, and three Corps of Engineers staffers came to support him.

"You all make a great team," Persons told Crane and his staff.

Port leaders said Crane has helped Jackson County deepen and widen the Bayou Casotte channel, develop a dredge material management plan, and direct and oversee Hurricane Katrina-related construction projects, among many more projects.

Persons said Crane has consistently gone to bat for the county's port and been at the center of many major projects.

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