



## **Thousands Gather on Docks to Celebrate Port's 100th Waterfront party marks occasion with music, memories and fun**

June 25, 2011

About 5,000 Long Beach area residents, joined by elected officials and the Long Beach Municipal Band flocked to a Port of Long Beach wharf Saturday, June 25, 2011 for a festive afternoon and evening of waterfront revelry and remembrance to honor the seaport's Centennial.



People shared their Port memories with artists and videographers, took rides on an impromptu seaside carnival, watched the Port's Centennial documentary narrated by star of movies and television Robert Wagner and capped the day by enjoying a concert by the Long Beach Municipal Band.

On the main stage of the event, officials thanked the community and the industry for working together to create and sustain one of the world's leading seaports.

"In celebrating our Centennial, it's been a real pleasure to look back and see everything it took to make the Port successful over the decades," said Nick Sramek, President of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners. "I'm truly in awe of the past business leaders, elected officials and maritime professionals who guided us to where we are today. And I'm just as impressed with the people here today who will take us into our next century."

The Port of Long Beach, officials noted, moves more than \$140 billion worth of cargo each year, supporting 300,000 jobs in the Southern California region. Also known as the "Green Port," the Port of Long Beach is a world leader in sustainability, with aggressive programs to reduce the impact of goods movement on the environment, the community and wildlife.

"It's amazing to think of all the people who have worked at and around the Port for 100 years," said Port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke. "While many other waterfront industries have come and gone, international trade as remained strong. I'd like to take a moment to salute those who have been a part of the Port's history and

have contributed to its success today. Many of those friends and partners are with us this afternoon.”

The Port’s 100th Birthday Party featured many highlights, including historical truck and rail displays, a photographic exhibit of the Port’s past and present, “Memory Lane” where artists illustrated residents’ stories, a Ferris wheel and other carnival rides, several vessels on display in the water including the massive containership OOCL Atlanta. The OOCL Atlanta was docked near the event and put out to sea just as the Long Beach Municipal Band took the stage.

There were celebratory birthday cupcakes from local bakeries, a panel discussion on the Port’s history led by veteran maritime journalist George Cunningham and a rare chance for the public to visit a real wharf in the massive harbor complex.

The Port of Long Beach’s first shipment – a load of lumber – arrived on June 2, 1911 on the SS Iaqu. The Port was officially dedicated in a dockside ceremony on June 24, 1911, with a performance by the Long Beach Municipal Band.

Media Contact: Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Assistant Director of Communications/Public Information Officer, (562) 283-7702, (562) 619-5665 (cell), or [art.wong@polb.com](mailto:art.wong@polb.com).

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