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Sean M. Duffy Sr. named 2022 C. Alvin Bertel Award recipient

Award ceremony to take place on June 24, 2022, at the Plimsoll Ballroom in the Four Seasons Hotel New Orleans

March 10, 2022, New Orleans, LA – The World Trade Center New Orleans (WTCNO) has announced Sean M. Duffy Sr., Executive Director of Big River Coalition, and Executive Vice President of Louisiana Maritime Association as the recipient of its 2022 C. Alvin Bertel Award.

"I am honored to accept the prestigious Bertel Award from the World Trade Center, and I genuinely feel the sheer weight of this recognition. I have a long admiration and historic connection to the Bertel Award that adds a layer of personal pride," said Sean Duffy, Executive Director of the Big River Coalition." He added, "However, individual successes have been achieved with the support of an amazing team of colleagues, friends and stakeholders who also make their unique livelihoods along the Mighty River. I humbly accept this Award on behalf of that team (Team Mississippi River), with specific thanks to the members of the Big River Coalition and the Louisiana Maritime Association for their unwavering support."

Serving as Executive Director of Big River Coalition, Mr. Duffy, is a well-known leader in the Maritime Industry, regionally and nationally. He has provided written and oral testimony to federal and state Congressional committees, and the President's Oil Spill Commission to advocate for channel maintenance of the Mississippi River and Tributaries. Duffy has been recognized for his efforts to deepen the Mississippi River Ship Channel to 50 feet providing deep-draft access to the ports of New Orleans, Plaquemines, and South Louisiana, and promoting coastal restoration through the beneficial use of dredge material.

"As a fellow advocate of dredging and maximizing the Mississippi's River's capacity for the future of Louisiana and international trade, I could not be more pleased with the selection of Sean Duffy as the recipient of the 2022 Bertel Award," said Paul Aucoin, President & Chairman, World Trade Center New Orleans. "We are proud of Sean and his achievements, and are looking forward to celebrating him at the Plimsoll Ballroom in

June. Thank you, Sean for all that you have done for our state and for international trade.” he added.

The Big River Coalition (BRC) is committed to protecting and maximizing efficient transportation on the deep-draft ship channel from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico. The Big River Coalition’s mission is focused on securing increased funding from the Harbor Maintenance Tax, Inland Users Fuel Tax and in particular efforts to deepen the Lower Mississippi River to 50 feet and to increase the beneficial use of dredge material.

“Sean’s leadership at the Big River Coalition is critical to Louisiana. U.S. Economic estimates indicate that maritime commerce across the Mississippi River and its tributaries has an annual impact of over \$735 billion on the U.S. Economy and *is responsible for 2.4 million jobs*,” said Ed Webb, CEO of the World Trade Center New Orleans. “Louisiana and its leadership is working hard to grow its recognition an international and domestic port of choice. I believe that there is no one more experienced or more passionate than Sean to lead this effort.”

The Bertel Award was established in 1967 and is presented each year to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Louisiana port and maritime community.

“It is appropriate and timely for Sean Duffy to receive this big honor,” said Michael Hecht, President & CEO of GNO, Inc. Everything about Sean is big: his Big River Coalition, his two decades as a rugby flanker, and his commitment to the Mississippi and the economy of South Louisiana. I congratulate Sean on receiving the 2022 C. Alvin Bertel Award, and thank him for his big contributions.”

The award will be presented at the annual C. Alvin Bertel Award Ceremony and Luncheon on June 24, 2022, 11 am - 2 pm in the Plimsoll Ballroom, at the Four Seasons Hotel. For event sponsorship information, contact Patrice Fisher at (504) 289-2327, via email at pfisher@wtcno.org, or by visiting www.wtcno.org.

About the World Trade Center New Orleans

Founded as the International House in 1943 and as the International Trade Mart in 1945, these two predecessor organizations merged in 1985 and are now known as “The World Trade Center of New Orleans,” the oldest of over 300 World Trade Centers around the globe. The World Trade Center strives to bring together professionals in the regional, national, and international trade and maritime communities.

Our Mission: “We foster economic development throughout Louisiana and the surrounding Gulf Coast Region by advocating for the support and the promotion of the international trade goals of our members and stakeholders.”