



LABOR DAY 2021

The Sailors' Union of the Pacific joins #EssentialAlways campaign to honor and thank frontline transportation workers on Labor Day

San Francisco, CA – This Labor Day the Sailors Union of the Pacific is proudly joining the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), and the U.S. Department of Transportation to [recognize and thank frontline transportation workers](#) for their service and sacrifice, and remind Americans that mariners and maritime workers are #EssentialAlways.

During the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, SUP members were key to the American economy sailing the ships that carry and deliver goods – 90% of everything. With their work sailors saved lives, and America is reminded that the duties of all of transportation labor are essential always.

“SUP sailors were not working from home during this pandemic,” said President David Connolly. “They climbed up gangways in a storm of risk and hardship to keep foreign and domestic trade lanes open for American shipping. In commercial and government ships, they kept our troops supplied, our hospitals open, shelves stocked, and food on the table. As befits the finest traditions of the American Merchant Marine, they were generous and resolute heroes.”

The #EssentialAlways campaign comes at a historic crossroads for this dedicated workforce. As the United States continues to grapple with the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic — which millions of frontline transportation workers have disproportionately shouldered — Congress and the Biden administration are pursuing transformational investments in infrastructure as part of the president’s build back better agenda. Highly skilled transportation workers, including SUP members, will be vital in achieving these goals and rebuilding our country.

“Frontline transportation workers power the most advanced economy in the world by operating, maintaining, and building the most complex transportation network on earth,” said TTD President Greg Regan. “Whether they’re helping people get to home, work, or school, moving the goods and raw materials we all rely on, delivering our mail, seeing us through a crisis, or building transportation projects of the future, these dedicated professionals have always been essential to the fabric of America, and they always will be.”

Transportation unions are encouraging the general public, elected leaders, and members of transportation and infrastructure community to join the campaign by following and engaging with the hashtag #EssentialAlways on Twitter and to watch and share [this video](#) explaining the important role transportation workers played before and during the pandemic, and the role they will play for years to come.