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PORT COMMISSION HONORS KRESTA FOR 12 YEARS OF SERVICE

FREEPORT, TX (May 27, 2021) – At the May 27, 2021 Regular Meeting, the Port Freeport Commission honored Commissioner Paul Kresta for his 12 years of service to Port Freeport. Commissioner Kresta was presented with a framed print of Port Freeport in appreciation for his service.

Commissioner Kresta joined the Port Commission in June 2009 representing Position 4, Precinct 2 of the Navigation District encompassing the areas around West Columbia and Damon. Mr. Kresta has a history of dedication and service to his community, including heavy involvement with the Brazoria County Fair Association and Brazoria County Cattlemen’s Association as well as the Brazoria chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

During Commissioner Kresta’s tenure on the Port Commission, Port Freeport has achieved the following accomplishments:

- Securing Congressional authorization and federal funding and commencing construction on the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project, which will make Port Freeport the deepest port in the Gulf of Mexico;
- Advocating for the successful passage of the 2018 bond referendum to ensure local share financing of the channel project;
- Progressing the Velasco Container Terminal Expansion Project with Phase I put into service in 2014 and Phase II set to be completed next year;
- Securing two 100-foot gauge Post Panamax container cranes for the Velasco Container Terminal;
- Entering into new partnerships to grow Port Freeport’s economic impact, including with Tenaris, Hoegh Autoliners, Horizon Terminal Services/Ampports, CMA CGM Group, Glovis, and others;
- Securing lease agreements with Freeport LNG for liquefaction;
- Voting to reduce the tax rate by 25% since 2011;

- Twice increasing the homestead exemption for those over 65 and those disabled;
- Completing Phase 1 of the Parcel 14 Rail Development;
- Securing \$6.3 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to assist with funding Phase 2 of the Parcel 14 Rail Development;
- Entering into a new agreement with Vulcan Materials Company for rail shipments of aggregate to the multi-modal site for storage and distribution;
- Partnering with the Velasco Drainage District on storm protection levee improvements;
- Participating in the working group to prepare the Port Freeport Pilot and Pilotage Rules and Procedures, improving relations between the Pilot Commission, maritime community, and the Brazos Pilots and ensuring the safe navigation of our channel;
- Ushering in a new era for the Brazos Pilots with a new pilot dispatch service and a new pilot boat staffed with deck hands;
- Celebrating new U.S. Customs and Border Protection offices at Port Freeport;
- Establishing a heavy lift corridor to allow local industries to move cargo under a permit system, reducing the number of trucks on the roadways, cutting down on emissions, and improving roadway safety for citizens;
- Increasing the Port's annual statewide economic impact from \$17 billion in 2012 to \$99 billion in 2019 and increasing the impacted jobs from 67,000 to 150,000;
- Supporting increased annual ship arrivals from 754 in 2015 to 1136 in 2020; and
- Progressing Port Freeport's national ranking to 15th for total foreign waterborne tonnage.

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranked 6th in chemicals, 15th in foreign waterborne tonnage, and 26th in containers. A 2019 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 279,780 jobs and has a total economic output of \$149 billion. Port Freeport serves Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., CEMEX, CMA CGM, Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products, Exxon Mobile, Freeport LNG, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Mammoet, MEGlobal, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallaum Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy, Wallenius Wilhelmsen, and Vulcan Materials Company.

Port Freeport is committed to keeping the local community informed of our operations and results. If you have questions or comments about this announcement, please email or call Jessica Follett, Public Affairs Manager.



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PHOTO CUTLINE: Port Freeport Commissioners and staff thank Commissioner Paul Kresta for his service on the Port Freeport Commission.