



# PRESS RELEASE

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## LOCAL HERO, COAST GUARD, & CBP HONORED AT LIGHTHOUSE GALA

*New Orleans* — Global Maritime Ministries is honoring outstanding members of the maritime community at their annual **Lighthouse Gala** at Audubon Tea Room on Friday, March 15. Special awards will be presented to honor exceptional acts of service.



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

**United States Coast Guard Sector New Orleans** and **United States Customs and Border Protection New Orleans** have been named as this year's recipients of the Crystal Lighthouse Award, which celebrates the Maritime Person of the Year, or in this case Persons of the Year. The New Orleans divisions of Coast Guard and CBP are recognized for their consistent service and protection of our maritime community. Both groups displayed their dedication to duty by continuing to serve during the recent government shutdown, despite not being paid. "I was at the Coast Guard office during the shutdown and they were busy rescuing someone who had fallen in the river," said Rev. Philip Vandercook, Executive Director of Global Maritime Ministries. "Coast Guard and CBP work very hard in our port and deserve more recognition."



*Cory Ciekot*

**Petty Officer Cory Ciekot** has been named as this year's recipient of the Rev. John P. Vandercook Service Award, which celebrates the Maritime Humanitarian of the Year. Demonstrating superior professionalism, initiative, and judgment, Ciekot played a vital role in saving five lives following a high speed boat collision with a rig. Commander Harper Phillips, Commanding Officer of Air Station New Orleans, said of Ciekot, "His quick thinking, ingenuity, and heroic actions over an eight-hour period led to the saving of five lives. His dedication and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U. S. Coast Guard."

The Lighthouse Gala will feature dinner, entertaining live music, and silent auction. Tickets are \$75 and are currently available for purchase. Corporate sponsorships are also available. All proceeds from the event will benefit Global Maritime Ministries. For more details and to purchase tickets, visit [PortMinistry.com](http://PortMinistry.com).