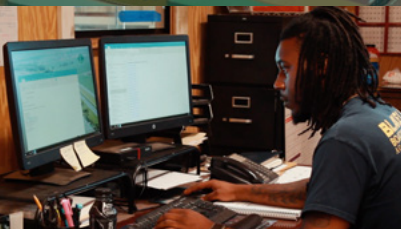


Coop^{The} Scoop

3rd Quarter, 2020



Cooper/Ports America's container yard at Port of Houston - Barbours Cut



02 Purchasing Team
Blakeley BoatWorks



03 AEU Safety Awards
Cooper Consolidated



04 AWO
Industry Partners



05 C/PA Delivers
Cooper/Ports America



the COOPER GROUP of companies

Blakeley BoatWorks Purchasing & Warehouse Team

The Purchasing and Warehouse Team at Blakeley BoatWorks is tasked with procuring and distributing vital tools and components for the ship yard's vessel repair and new construction projects. The four-man team works together to fulfill its role in getting client vessels back on the water as quickly as possible. •



> CP&O

We Are Cooper/T. Smith: Jeffrey West, Superintendent, CP&O

Jeffrey West, Superintendent at CP&O, joined the Cooper Group of Companies in 2005 upon retiring from the U.S. Army after 22 years of service. Enlisted in 1983, Jeffrey achieved the rank of First Sergeant (E-8P) and served as Transportation Manager in ports across the globe, including Egypt, Honduras, Italy, Turkey, Germany (where he received his U.S. Customs and Agricultural Certificate), and Southwest Asia during Desert Storm, Desert Comfort, and conflicts in Bosnia and Afghanistan.



“After retiring I joined CP&O as a Stevedoring Superintendent,” he said. “I’m part of a joint partnership between Cooper/T. Smith Corporation and Ports America that provides stevedoring services for commercial vessels at the Port of Hampton Roads.” This facility includes three marine terminals operated by Virginia International Terminals in Norfolk, Portsmouth and Newport News. In addition to container and break bulk cargo, CP&O also handles automobile Ro-Ro, and baggage handling and ship provision loading services for the Half Moon Cruise Terminal.

As part of the Operations Management Team, Jeffrey is responsible for the direction and supervision of longshore workers. “An important part of my job is maintaining a positive working relationship with our workers. I have to set the standard for them by running a safe and efficient operation.”

For Jeffrey the study and management of transportation logistics has always been a passion. “I’m proud to play a major role in ensuring that essential supplies, food, and equipment are successfully shipped and delivered, especially during these challenging times.” Jeffrey brings the same drive for excellence to CP&O as he did to his military service for 22 years.

“At CP&O we’re a very tight-knit group,” he explained. “We all have a long history of working together. Each day I come into work, I look forward to our comradery, seeing smiling faces and hearing family stories. Our motto around here – ‘we are family’ – reflects that.” •



CP&O baggage handling at the Half Moon Cruise Terminal

AEU Announces 2019 Safety Award Winners



Cooper Consolidated, LLC, is honored to be among the companies recognized by the American Equity Underwriters, Inc. (AEU) 2019 Safety Awards.

AEU, the program administrator for American Longshore Mutual Association (ALMA), a group self-insurance fund providing USL&H coverage under the United States Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, presents the awards each year to the best-performing ALMA members nationwide.

“We believe a strong commitment to safety should be a core value of every employer in the maritime industry,” said Michael Lapeyrouse, president and CEO of AEU. “The Safety Award program is one way that we recognize those who make safety a priority in their facilities. They deserve to be recognized among their peers as the best in the industry.”

Eligibility for the awards is based on the frequency and severity of workers' compensation accidents for the prior calendar year, as well as safety-related metrics determined by AEU's loss control team. •

2019 AEU Safety Award Winners

Austal USA	Core Industries	Halter Marine	Morrison	Randive
Ballard Marine Construction	DHD Offshore Services	Integrity Staffing Services	Nielsen Beaumont Marine	Rybovich Boat Company
Bella Contractors	Donjon Shipbuilding & Repair	Keppel AmFELS	Norton Lilly International	Saildrone
Brewer Crane & Rigging	Enterprise Offshore Drilling	Lakes Pilots Association	Offshore Inland	Team Services
Burner Fire Control	Gulf Craft	Limetree Bay Terminals	Patriot Port Holdings	West Gulf Marine
Cooper Consolidated	Gulfstar Industries	Manson Construction	Premier Scaffold	

> Cooper Restaurants

Ruth's Chris Steak House Covid-19 Precautions



Ruth's Chris Curbside Pickup

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Ruth's Chris Steak House in Mobile, Alabama, a locally owned franchise, began offering curbside pickup for the first time. The service was such a success that the restaurant has continued offering curbside, even after the main dining room reopened. •



Ruth's Chris Sanitization Precautions

With the main dining room reopened, Ruth's Chris Steak House in Mobile is following CDC guidelines for the health and safety of its guests and employees. •

Industry Partners: American Waterways Operators

American Waterways Operators (AWO) was incorporated in 1944 during World War II to give the industry a forum for navigating the myriad of regulations and unparalleled demands of freight transportation during that difficult era. AWO has since become the national advocate for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry, and an important partner for the Cooper Group of Companies. AWO members operate on the rivers, coasts, Great Lakes, and harbors of the United States, moving vital commodities safely, reducing air emissions, water pollution, and highway congestion, protecting homeland security, and providing family-wage jobs for tens of thousands of Americans.



“AWO has been on the forefront of industry advocacy with the U.S. Coast Guard,” said Alan Savoie, Director of Marketing and Development, Cooper Consolidated, and member of the AWO Standards Board. “Prior to Sub-Chapter M,” he continued, “AWO provided the industry with the Responsible Carrier Program (RCP), which became so popular that membership and compliance with it became a requirement of most, if not all, liquid carriers in the industry.”



Plimsoll Marine, Crescent Towing, and Cooper Marine and Timberlands, through their AWO memberships, have all received RCP certification.

“While Sub-Chapter M mandates compliance from a safety perspective for all maritime companies as of July 2018,” Savoie elaborated, “AWO’s continued goal is to carry forward with a robust RCP and continue its advocacy with the Coast Guard.”

As a member of the Standards Board, Savoie and fellow board members are responsible for recommended revisions of RCP to AWO’s Board of Directors. In addition, the Board oversees AWO-recognized third-party organizations, audits, and applications from organizations seeking to become AWO-recognized. Further, the Standards Board has authority to issue clarifications and directives memoranda, as needed, to guide RCP interpretation.

Savoie added, “As we move through Sub-Chapter M, it’s imperative that we not lose sight of government regulations and the protection of the Jones Act. The AWO staff, located in Washington, D.C., regularly meets with members of the U.S. Congress to ensure the industry is consulted about important policy decisions that directly impact our business.”

Cementing its role as “the voice of industry,” AWO remains steadfast in promoting the long-term economic soundness of the industry and works to enhance its ability to provide safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible transportation. •



Louisiana waterway representatives, including Cooper Consolidated’s Chris Blanchard (far right, middle row), visiting Washington, D.C., to lobby state representatives on behalf of the industry.



**The American
Waterways Operators**

The Tugboat, Towboat & Barge Industry Association



Watch

Ann Levine

GM, Ruth's Chris Steak House

As General Manager at Ruth's Chris Steak House, Ann is responsible for ensuring guests receive the one-of-a-kind experience, food, and hospitality the restaurant is known for. It's a responsibility she doesn't take lightly. •



Watch

Marcus Finley

Crane Operator

A crane operator for Cooper Marine & Timberlands, Marcus is responsible for loading cargo on vessels. As an essential worker, he is proud to play a role in keeping our economy moving. •

> Cooper/Ports America

C/PA Delivers Customers a Deluxe Suite of Maritime, Transportation Services (as featured in *Greater Houston Port Bureau*)



Cooper/Ports America (C/PA), a joint venture between Cooper/T. Smith and Ports America, acquired with Shippers Stevedoring, Chaparral Stevedoring and 100% of Integrated Marine Services (IMS) to offer an unparalleled portfolio of maritime and transportation services to Texas markets. They offer full-service stevedoring, terminal operations, container stuffing and stripping, container yard depots, container and chassis maintenance and repair, truck brokerage and logistics.

The C/PA venture was formed in 2016, bringing the strengths of Cooper/T. Smith and Ports America together for operations throughout Texas. Like their owners, The Cooper Group of Companies and Ports America, C/PA holds that it's their people that make them the premier service provider in their industries.

This outlook is particularly reflected in the company's strong emphasis on safety. Safety is led by the participation of all personnel and drives every C/PA operation. "Our positive safety results are made by the positive attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs of the C/PA team," says J. David Morgan, president of C/PA.

Combining Strengths, Expanded Core Services

Established in 1905, Cooper /T. Smith has operations on all three U.S. coasts and foreign operations in Brazil and Mexico. The company maintains ownership in numerous subsidiary and affiliate companies, including warehousing, terminal operations, tugboats, push boats, barging, barge fleet, floating terminals, logistics, marine & timberlands, vessel repair and restaurants. Their experienced, action-oriented team, state-of-the-art equipment and automated facilities provide fast, efficient and cost-effective movement of cargo anywhere.

Ports America brought over 90 years of experience to the joint venture. They are the largest U.S. terminal (continued)



operator and stevedore, with operations in every major port in the nation. Ports America possesses dedicated resources that only a company of such scale and scope can deliver, including skilled personnel, robust training programs, best-in-class technology and experienced management.

The powerhouse of the combined businesses of Ports America, Cooper/T. Smith, Shippers Stevedoring, Chaparral Stevedoring, and IMS makes C/PA unique. “C/PA offers many services branched out from our core business of stevedoring,” explains Morgan. “Other stevedoring companies may offer just stevedoring or stevedoring and an additional adjacent service, but C/PA offers terminal operations, off-dock container maintenance and repair, off-dock and on-dock container freight stations for loading/unloading containers, and Foreign Trade Zone storage.”

Technology-Driven Logistics Services Transforms City Docks

C/PA has experienced steady growth. The company has gained new business across its business units since 2016, but the largest, most comprehensive growth has been the result of the “Total Logistics Services” innovation at Port Houston’s City Docks.

“We developed proper lay-down yards at City Docks, combined various truck offices into one centrally located truck office for over-the-road truck driver efficiencies, developed and updated the Terminal Operating System (TOS) to enable on-site tablet use by our terminal staff as well as online customer reports for both shippers and receivers to track their cargo,” Morgan says. “We also added a truck brokerage division.”

This new C/PA division has grown and has updated the historically inefficient logistics operations at City Docks with a better total logistics system for ALL cargo interests from shippers, to C/PA’s ship line customers, to the truck driving community and ultimately to the final cargo owner.

An Efficiency-Driven Future

Just like the efficiencies of C/PA’s “Total Logistics Services” transformed operations at the City Docks, the company’s future planning will focus on performance competencies.

Morgan believes improved efficiency is significant to steering all maritime businesses as they forge ahead. This includes sufficient water depth to handle larger vessels across all types of cargo, labor efficiencies, better use of inland transportation infrastructure to get export cargo to ports and import cargo to the customers efficiently.

“All of these items,” says Morgan, “need to evolve and improve to increase efficiencies and ultimately enable the maritime community to compete for low/lower customer pricing within the international market.” •



We Are Cooper/T. Smith: Dana Asevado, Crescent Towing

Dana Asevado, Administrative Assistant for Crescent Towing and Cooper/T. Smith Mooring, was introduced to the maritime industry in a rather unusual manner. Before joining the Cooper Group of Companies, Dana was the owner of a private investigation business, which mainly focused on examining workers compensation claims. With a majority of claims coming from the maritime industry, the curtain was pulled back and Dana's eyes were opened to a whole new world.



After enduring more than 13 years of the grueling hours demanded by her life as a P.I., a business she had been part of in some form or another since just after high school, Dana decided it was time to focus more on her family. After making the tough decisions to leave the business, Dana joined Crescent Towing in September 2009 as a full-time Administrative Assistant. In this role she worked side-by-side with Tina Adams, current Director of Administration, and Philip Katz, current Vice President, to assist with handling billing and collections for the company.

After several years, though happy with her role at Crescent Towing, Dana wanted to expand her horizons, personally and professionally. "I always had the goal of getting my college degree," Dana said, "but it was something that I had always kept putting aside. Finally, I found time to enroll in night school and in August 2015 I received my Bachelor of Science degree." Not one to slouch, she followed that up with earning her Master's in Business with an emphasis in Human Resources in December 2017.

"Completing my degree gave me a real confidence boost, reaffirming that I could take on more responsibilities at Crescent Towing," she enthused.

With her confidence reaffirmed, Dana sought to expand her responsibilities by stepping into the world of Cooper/T. Smith Mooring (CTS Mooring). Along with her Crescent Towing responsibilities, she began handling collections for CTS Mooring and even served as a backup member for its billing department. When the opportunity arose to assume full responsibilities of billing for CTS Mooring, Dana's experience allowed her to quickly take the reins and find success.

Currently, she handles all billing and collections for CTS Mooring. "Billing and collections are more than just entering numbers and sending invoices," she explained. "Our group is responsible for ensuring jobs are done correctly, verified with the customer or their agent, and the work is accepted."

As one might imagine, collections work can be time consuming and requires a great deal of patience. "Each day I review the monthly collections report and follow-up so outstanding invoices don't go unpaid." Dana has grown to enjoy the collections side of the business just as much as the billing. "With collections I feel the work I do and the progress made each day is tangible. I can see the results of my work and scratch it off my collections report."

Due in part to Dana's leadership and expertise, the billing and collections departments at Crescent Towing and CTS Mooring operate like well-oiled machines. Though the team is small, its members work well together – a trait Dana values. "We've gotten the billing department to a point where if one of us is out of the office for any length of time," she proudly stated, "another member of the team can step in without missing a beat and handle that person's duties until they return, guaranteeing continuity of service for our clients."

It's such dedication, efficiency, and professionalism that make Dana an invaluable member of the Cooper Group of Companies. •

Cooper/T. Smith Mooring: A Day in the Life



Buckle your lifevest and slide on your safety gloves as you climb aboard a Cooper/T. Smith Mooring boat and get a glimpse into the lives and daily duties of these linemen, boat operators, and dispatchers as they work the river.

Cooper/T. Smith Mooring, the largest and most experienced vessel mooring service provider on the Mississippi River, provides professional mooring services to operations located from the mouth of the Mississippi River to Port of Greater Baton Rouge. Operations and personnel are dispatched from the central office at Algiers Point in New Orleans, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Established in January 1959, the company has grown from a small operation with only four employees to the largest mooring operation in the U.S. •

> Cooper Consolidated

Laplace Water Rescue

On the morning of June 17, Alexander Tritt, lead mechanic for Crescent Towing, was transiting to the company's work barge at Cooper Consolidated's Laplace anchorage when he lost his footing and fell overboard from a Weber Marine launch.

Sherman Williams, captain of the launch, responded immediately by securing Tritt alongside the launch and issued a distress call. Shortly thereafter, Weber's Kenny Martin responded to the call and delivered Cooper Consolidated's Eugene Flemings, Terrance Young, and Gerald Venable to the scene, who then extracted Tritt from the river.

The professionalism, dedication, and exceptional awareness demonstrated by these men during the rescue are an honorable tribute to Cooper Consolidated, Weber Marine and our industry as a whole.

Thank you for a job well done! •



Tritt



Flemings



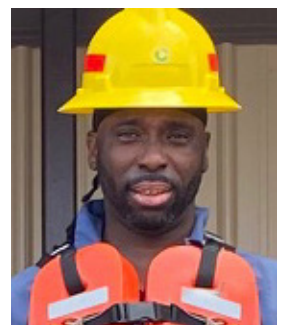
Martin



Venable



Williams



Young

We Are Cooper/T. Smith: Patrick Gray, C/PA

Patrick Gray has dedicated his career to serving the maritime industry. Beginning as an apprentice for a ship owner/agency, he learned all aspects of vessel management, operations, maintenance and repair, and even clocked some sailing hours at sea. Fully rounding out his skill set, Patrick also worked as a purchasing agent, ship line manager, and even ran his own vessel cleaning business for five years. Having lived and breathed the maritime industry for his entire professional life, there was still one aspect that had eluded him – stevedoring.

“When the opportunity presented itself in 1986,” Patrick recalled, “I finally stepped into the stevedoring business.”

In 1998, after more than a decade in the field, he joined Cooper/T. Smith in Houston, Texas, as a Ship Superintendent. Eventually, in 2016, the operation merged its Houston-area breakbulk services with Ports America to form the joint-venture Cooper/Ports America (C/PA).

Now working as a General Superintendent for C/PA, Patrick oversees labor and rigging during loading and unloading of project cargo, which can range from military equipment and oil rigs to steel and chemical plant equipment. He values the bonds that have formed among his colleagues, and believes that the combined experience and support of the C/PA team is one of the company’s greatest strengths.

Patrick commented, “I love the challenges that my job presents. Unloading the different commodities safely and efficiently... it’s very satisfying to complete each vessel.” •



> Crescent Towing

Tug Life: A Crescent Towing Tugboat Tour

Ever wonder what life is like onboard one of Crescent Towing’s harbor tugboats? Climb aboard the *David J. Cooper* as its crew shows us around their vessel and shines a light on living and working on a Mississippi River tug. •



NOLA River Pilot Canoes the Mississippi

portions excerpted from *Duluth News Tribune*

It's never too late to follow your dreams. When he was a boy growing up in Louisiana on the Gulf of Mexico, Joey Cargol developed a love of the Mississippi River. On June 1, he set off on a solo canoe expedition from the Headwaters of the Mississippi River at Itasca State Park in Minnesota to travel 2,552 miles down to the Gulf.

"Every day growing up, I saw ships and barges coming and going," he said. "I wondered where this great river came from. My childhood imagination ran wild and seeing where the mighty Mississippi started grew into a dream that never went away."

His love of the water took him many places. "I went into the Merchant Marines as a mate and worked my way up to captain," he said. Currently, he works as a Crescent River Port Pilot on the lower Mississippi, a job he says he plans to keep until he retires.

The boat that took him from the Headwaters home to Louisiana was a restored 1947 Petersburg cedar canoe he bought 20 years ago from its original owner.

"She has been hanging in our living room for 20 years," he said. "She's more than 70 years old, so she has a few small cracks and holes. She's an old girl and I pushed her to her limits."

For food, Joey brought an ice chest for meat and enough non-perishable food to last about a month. Waterproof bags were used to keep food and clothes dry. Cargol also packed rain gear, a life jacket, a tent and sleeping bag on board. For entertainment, he listened to his radio and audible books. His only communication with the outside world was by cell phone, when he could get a signal.

"It was a solitary journey," he said. "I had hoped to visit with people along the way, but due to Covid-19 it was mostly quick stops to camp each night with longer stops to stock up on supplies after about a month."



The expedition evolved into a "Covexit" of sorts. Despite the "new normal" of social distancing and PPE, Joey wanted to prove that it's still possible to leave the house and travel, explore, and get your hands dirty, and hopes his trip inspired others to spend time outdoors.

Averaging around 40 miles a day on his journey, Joey reached New Orleans on August 5. That's when Crescent Towing and Cooper/T. Smith Mooring got a surprise visit from the adventurer. After being on the river for more than 60 days, Joey received a warm welcome from the Crescent Towing and CTS Mooring teams, not to mention some cold water and a care package to assist with the last leg of his journey to the Gulf of Mexico.

"The Mississippi River connects the whole country," he said. "It feeds the world with corn, soybeans, wheat and so much more all shipped down the Mississippi. That's one of the things that makes the river so special."

Retrace Joey's river adventure in his Facebook blog, [Expedition H2020](#), which is packed with stories, photos and videos. •



Innovative Technology Provides Peace of Mind



In addition to in-person temperature scans prior to the start of shifts and during crew changes, a number of Cooper Group facilities have implemented an innovative automated temperature-taking system designed to increase efficiency in order to maintain safety at the workplace. Thermal Scanning Kiosk, a touchless body temperature detection system, is a new line of defense for providing a safe environment and peace of mind for our employees, visitors and customers.

As employee and visitor temperature screenings have become critical for mitigating COVID-19 transmission, Thermal Scanning Kiosk provides an effective method for keeping sick individuals

out of company facilities. The portable kiosk provides a user-friendly and contactless experience that requires no overseeing attendant, thus reducing the possibility of contagion. An employee needs only to stand within three feet of the kiosk to be scanned. Results take less than three seconds, and the employee's temperature is displayed onscreen.

Utilizing a red-light indicator for temperatures outside the allowable range and a green light for acceptable readings, the device is accurate to within half a degree Fahrenheit. An elevated temperature triggers an alarm and a notification is sent by email or text to management. Equipped with advanced facial recognition technology, the system is able to recognize employees with or without personal protective masks. •

> Cooper Marine and Timberlands

New Barge Builds for CMT

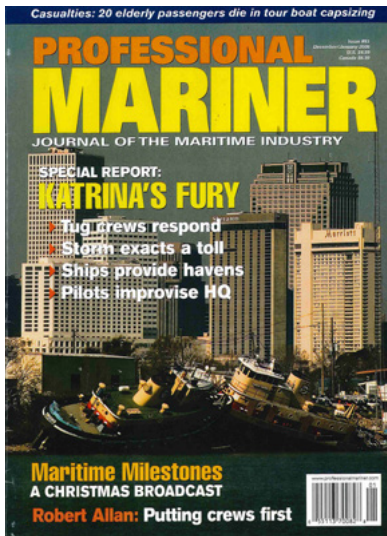
Cooper Marine and Timberlands (CMT) has received new barge builds from Arcosa Marine in Caruthersville, Missouri. The new builds include box barges, three of which are covered for weather-sensitive cargo, and rake open hopper barges. Depending on cargo and the environment in which they're used, hopper barges have a typical lifespan of 25 to 30 years. These barges will be used to transport a variety of dry cargo on U.S. inland waterways, including grain, coal, stone, and aggregates. The first barge rolled out on August 4, and the final barge was delivered on August 31. •



15th Anniversary of the Coast Guard Response to Katrina

Hosted by the National Coast Guard Museum Association, this dynamic discussion shares inspiring stories from the U.S. Coast Guard's response and recovery efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, a disaster during which the heroic men and women of the Coast Guard saved over 33,500 lives and became the largest search and rescue mission in our nation's history.

Facilitated by Chief Petty Officer Phillip Null, panelists include Scott Cooper, President of Crescent Towing, whose employees aided in immediate response and recovery efforts; Captain Bruce Jones, USCG (Ret.), former Commander of Air Station New Orleans, who led aviation rescue operations; and Admiral Thad Allen, USCG (Ret.), 23rd Commandant of the Coast Guard and Principal Federal Official for Hurricane Katrina response. •



> Cooper Marine and Timberlands

CMT Recives New Pushboat



Introducing the *Mary Lynn Cooper*. Built by Blakeley BoatWorks for Cooper Marine and Timberlands, this 70-foot, 1,600 hp, Subchapter M-ready pushboat was delivered in August and is already busy transporting cargo up and down the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.



Milestones

5 Years

Jessy Demouey
William Hicks
Heather Brooks
Logan Gray
Cody Lester
Tommy Thornhill
Brooke Parker
Cody Denny
Justin Dejean
Christian Chavez
Cody Mire
Trey Stewart
George Crenshaw III
Christian Breithaupt
Erick Anthony
Jared Silbernagel
Timothy Allemand

10 Years

Dylan Ragland
Henry Stokes Jr.
Duane Joiner
Mary Martin
Eddie Laine III

15 Years

Kyle Futrell
Larry Sandras Jr.

20 Years

Richard Shawn

25 Years

Barbara Nelson
Jason Bryan

30 Years

Daniel Patton
Robert Minton
Thomas Dickerson Jr.

Years

Toby Jones
Lloyd Dressel



Seafarers International Union recently awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to Marissa Peterson, daughter of Crescent Towing deckhand James Peterson, Jr. Marissa currently attends Georgia Southern University, majoring in Nursing. Once she earns her Bachelors degree, she plans to further her education with a Masters degree in Nursing-Midwifery.



In the aftermath of Hurricane Laura, the Port of Beaumont launched a campaign to assist port employees impacted by the storm locally and at the Port of Lake Charles. Cooper/Ports America was happy to contribute tarps, fans and small air conditioners to help provide port workers with relief from the summer heat. Other items collected by the Port included canned food, antiseptic wipes, fuel and water. The Port of Beaumont estimates that more than \$3,000 in supplies were donated to help with recovery efforts.



Bradley Burdett, Boat Operator for Cooper/T. Smith Mooring, once again shared his passion for cooking to help those in need. To assist with Hurricane Laura recovery efforts, Bradley led a team of volunteers to Moss Bluff, Louisiana, just north of Lake Charles, to serve hot meals to those affected by the storm. With donations of food and supplies from local New Orleans restaurants, Crescent Towing, and Cooper/T. Smith Mooring, he and his team served more than 1,400 hot meals.



Crescent Towing was proud to assist with the recent wet berthing and dry docking of the U.S. Naval Ship *Supply* at Alabama Shipyard. *USNS Supply*, formerly *USS Supply*, is the lead ship of the Supply-class fast combat support ships currently operated by the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command.