

# W O M E N

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## AT THE PORT

AS JIM WHITE, THE MPA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAYS, "IT'S IMPORTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL WORKING WOMEN, INCLUDING THOSE WHO'VE WORKED FOR THE MPA ITSELF. PEOPLE DON'T GENERALLY LOOK AT STATE GOVERNMENTS AS GROUNDBREAKERS IN THIS AREA. SO WE THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE'VE PROVIDED NON-TRADITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE FOR SOME TIME NOW."

### the first



**MARY ELLEN CARROLL**  
Retired Yardmaster

*Suddenly she found herself among the longshoremen, sailors and ships — the first woman yardmaster in MPA history. "I was tying up the ships and allocating the space on the terminals out in the actual yard.*

*They never let a woman do that before.*

### fulfilling

**AGNES COLEMAN**  
Implementation of Minority Business and Equal Opportunity Initiatives

*"It took a long time to get here. But this is much more fulfilling than anything else I've done. The climb has been more than worth it. It's more than just a job. It gives me a really good feeling to think of the people I'm helping."*



# nervous

## MIRIAM BRANNON

Retired MPA Marine Statistician

*"That first day I was so nervous and so upset that I had to lie down in the back seat of the car going home. I said, Well, I'll give this a couple of weeks, but I don't think I'm going to like this. Of course, I stayed 27 years. When I first started working down there (in 1959), the banana boats would come down and unload right at Pratt Street, about where the World Trade Center is today. It was quite different back then."*

# predicting



## SENATOR BARBARA A. HOFFMAN

Democrat, District 42, Baltimore City/County

*"The business in the port is always shifting. Demand for products and services constantly change and the challenge is predicting the next boon and understanding how that boon will affect space needs. You have to be nimble to compete."*

# focus

## SENATOR GLORIA GARY LAWLAH

Democrat, District 26, Prince George's county

*"One of the strongest points for the port is economic development. We have a goal to upgrade the port so that we are competitive with Norfolk, with New York, and in the long haul it will certainly help us economically if we do that. Ours was to take a long focus to try to recruit in the businesses that will help make the port self-sufficient, and I think we're pretty well along on the road to that important goal."*



# minority-owned



## EDITH TERRELL

Manager, MPA Office of Fair Practices.

*"In terms of contracts let to minority-owned vendors per fiscal year, the MPA's track record is already very good. Over the past three fiscal years about 28% of the contracts awarded by the MPA have gone to small and minority-owned companies, either as prime contractors or subcontractors."*

# outwork



## JOANNE ZAWITOSKI

Maritime Lawyer, Semmes, Bowen & Semmes

*She works on cases involving cargo damage claims, seamen's claims, and maritime contractual disputes. "It was very difficult for me to get a job as a maritime lawyer. Back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, it was still a male-dominated field.*

*"I'm always willing to outwork the competition. I've found that's part of the secret to my success. I will work like nobody's business to win a case for my client."*

# opportunity

## MARY M. TRITCH

Port Manager, Baltimore  
Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines Americas

*"I saw opportunities and, every time there was an opportunity I could learn and grow with, I went for it. I consistently moved forward."*



# family tradition



## MARTY SMITH

Retired National Account Manager  
Norfolk Southern Corporation

*"My mom and her two sisters all hired on during World War II. So railroad-ing had kind of become a family tradition by the time I got into it. It's nice to think that I'm carrying on a tradition."*

# team

## SUSAN BROWN

Manager, Quality Assurance, McCormick & Co.

*Helping to spearhead a team created to standardize guidelines for validating spice reconditioning processes, Brown says, "Helen Bentley heard the problems that we were having and she said, 'Let's go find Barbara (U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski). Senator Mikulski helped get all the right people identified very quickly.'"*



protecting

**SANQUANETT WILLIAMS**

Port Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture

*I'm thoroughly convinced that we are the first line of defense for stamping out diseases and pest risks from animals and plants that come into the U.S. We truly are protecting America's agriculture."*



linking



**FRANCES REAVES**

Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development

*In her all-consuming pursuit of new transportation, manufacturing, warehousing and distribution opportunities for the state, Reaves says, "A big part is liaisoning with the Port of Baltimore. Many of the calls we make, we make together. Any success we have is a credit to the port and DBED working proactively together."*

next generation

**MARJORIE SHAPIRO**

President & CEO, Samuel Shapiro & Company

*When Margie Shapiro received her Customs broker's license in 1995, it was exactly 80 years after her grandfather Samuel Shapiro received his (license number 80). "It was just expected that my siblings and I would go to school, go to college and then go into business with Dad (Sig Shapiro). Of course, we have all tried to rebel."*



third generation



**GILDA JOHNSON**

Owner, Gilbert Marine Supply Company

*The third-generation marine surplus dealer says of her inventory: "With little exception, everything here was made in the U.S.A. That says volumes about American craftsmanship and longevity. "You need a lot of this to make a living. It's not beautiful, but it's what I do."*