

Cape Gazette

Covering Delaware's Cape Region

FRIDAY, MAY 27 – MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022

Nick Roth May 27, 2022

Lewes' special and historic relationship to the sea is the city's No. 1 core value, and it was on full display at the annual Lewes Maritime Day May 21 in Canalfront Park. Dozens of vendors joined the public for a celebration of all things marine. Tours of a the Lightship Overfalls, Lewes fire boat and a pilot boat were offered, while Freedom Boat Club provided free boat rides in the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal.

The Overfalls Foundation held its opening ceremony as part of the event, with brief remarks from President Michael Safina, the **Rev. Dr. S. Willard Crossan III of Groome Church**, Heath Gehrke of Cape May-Lewes Ferry, Lewes Mayor Ted Becker and Dan MacElrevey of the Pilots' Association for the Bay & River Delaware. Cathy Gorman provided entertainment before and after the event and sang the national anthem and God Bless America. She also performed the Eternal Father during a wreath-laying ceremony that honored Overfalls Foundation members Wayne Kirklin, Alan Klineburger and Hugh "Frosty" McDaniel as well as merchant mariners who have died.

Vendors at the event included: Freedom Boat Club, University of Delaware, Henlopen Bait & Tackle, Fort Miles Historical Association, Sea Scout Ship 198, Delaware River & Bay Lighthouse Association, Overfalls Foundation, Lewes Historical Society, Bowers Beach Maritime Museum, Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, **Groome Church**, Pilots Association for the Bay and River Delaware, Quest Adventures, Lewes Fire Department, Cape Water Tours and Taxi, U.S. Merchant Marines, U.S. Coast Guard, Cape May-Lewes Ferry and Delaware State Parks.

The event was held one day before National Maritime Day. In 1933, Congress declared May 22 as National Maritime Day to honor the contributions of the American merchant marine – civilians who have defended the freedom of the U.S. since 1775 and who executed the largest sealift the world has ever known during World War II. An estimated 1,554 merchant ships were sunk during the way and more than 11,000 merchant mariners lost their lives. Observance of National Maritime Day also honors the maritime industry and the benefits it brings Americans in terms of transportation, jobs, goods and recreational opportunities.



PHOTOS / TOP RIGHT: Rev. Dr. S. Willard Crossan III of Groome Church offers the invocation. **MIDDLE:** The Lewes Fire Boat shoots its hoses into the sky during a display at the beginning of Lewes Maritime Day. **BOTTOM:** Wreaths stand in front of the Lightship Overfalls to honor those who've died.