

## **J. Robert Bray**

In May 1978, J. Robert “Bobby” Bray was appointed executive director of the Virginia Port Authority, a post he held until July 1, 2007. He began his career at the VPA in 1967 as its general counsel. Prior to that position he served as law clerk to the Virginia Supreme Court and as assistant city attorney for the City of Portsmouth.

When he took over as executive director in 1978, The Port of Virginia handled 231,848 TEUs in 2006 the port set an all-time record having handled slightly more than 2 million TEUs.

His industry involvement includes service on the Board of Directors of Virginia International Terminals, Inc. (VIT), Virginia Coal Research Development Advisory Board, South Atlantic and Caribbean Ports Association and the ODU Maritime Advisory Council. He is the past chairman of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA).

In addition, he serves on Greater Norfolk Corporation Board of Directors, Town Point Club Board of Governors, Hampton Roads Partnership Board of Directors where he also serves as a member of its executive committee and the Board of Trustees of Hampden-Sydney College.

Throughout his 39-year career with the VPA, Bray has been honored several times for his leadership in the industry and his civic involvement:

**1990** Hampton Roads Foreign Commerce Club Commerce Builder Award

**1992** Inductee, Containerization & Intermodal Institute’s Hall of Fame

**1996** Distinguished Service Award from the Hampton Roads Maritime Association – Recognized as “Mr. Hampton Roads”

**1999** Connie Award from the Containerization & Intermodal Institute

**1998** Bronze de Fleury Medal – the first Congressional medal struck by the district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, honoring contributions to the Corps

**1999** Received the Patrick Henry Award, presented by Hampden-Sydney College for distinguished service to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia

**2006** Recognized by *Virginia Business* magazine as one of the top 20 industry leaders in Virginia who have had a transforming effect on their industry or their regional economy

**2006** The VPA was chosen by *Containerisation International* magazine as the Port Authority of the Year among ports throughout the world. The VPA was the only North American nominee.

**2006** Darden Award for Regional Leadership

**2007** Inductee, International Maritime Hall of Fame

Bray was reared and still resides in Portsmouth, Virginia, and graduated from Hampden-Sydney College and the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary.