

## Virginia Port Authority

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### News Release

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## J. Robert Bray Completes His Tenure at the Virginia Port Authority on July 1

**Norfolk, VA** – J. Robert “Bobby” Bray, the long-time executive director of the Virginia Port Authority said that July 1 will be his last day with the VPA.

The announcement was made public at the regularly scheduled meeting (May 22) of the VPA Board of Commissioners by its chairman, John G. Milliken.

“He is stepping down on the highest of high notes,” Milliken said. “He guided this port from the early days through its most prosperous years. We were fortunate to have him when, and for as long as we did. All you can say is God bless him.”

In mid-2006 Bray announced that he would retire by the end of 2007 and shortly thereafter the VPA board began searching for his replacement. In November 2006, Jerry A. Bridges, then director of the Port of Oakland, was named as the successor to Bray. Bridges took over as executive director Feb. 5 and Bray became executive director emeritus.

“I always said I would retire when the time was right. Well, the time is right,” Bray said. “The VPA is in a set of very good, capable hands. The leadership transition went very smoothly and it is complete. I truly believe The Port of Virginia has a very prosperous future ahead of it and I look forward to watching it unfold from a bit of a distance.”

Although Bray has completed his career at the VPA he will continue to be involved in planning and hosting the coming annual convention of the American Association of Port Authorities scheduled for Sept. 30 through Oct. 4, in Norfolk. The convention is a gathering of the largest port-industry trade group in North America.

Bray began his career at the VPA in 1967 as its general counsel and in 1978 he was appointed executive director. A bio of Bray’s career and accomplishments is attached.

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**The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) is an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, reporting to the state Secretary of Transportation. The VPA owns and operates four general cargo facilities on behalf of the state: Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Newport News Marine Terminal and the Virginia Inland Port in Warren County. The terminals are operated by Virginia International Terminals, Inc. (VIT) the non-stock, non-profit operating company. The VPA, through terminal earnings generated by VIT, is operationally self-sufficient. The VPA and correlating maritime industry is responsible for 165,000 jobs, \$762 million in business revenues and \$61 million in state and local taxes throughout the Commonwealth.**