

## Virginia Port Authority

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### News Release

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## VPA-Led Volunteers Gather 5,400 lbs. of Garbage at Clean the Bay Day

**Norfolk, VA** – Sixty-five volunteers – many with their families in tow -- from the area's maritime community came together Saturday, June 7, in 90-degree plus heat and collectively gathered more than two-and-a-half tons of garbage for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Clean the Bay Day event.

The volunteers gave their morning to cleaning up the shoreline and grounds of Norfolk International Terminals, one of the three marine terminals owned and operated by the Virginia Port Authority [VPA]. Clean the Bay Day is an all-volunteer event focused on cleaning up the shores of the Chesapeake Bay from Maryland to Virginia and its tributaries; this is the event's 20<sup>th</sup> year.

“This is the seventh year employees from the VPA and Virginia International Terminals have given their time to this event and each year we strong participation,” said Heather W. Mantz, the VPA's environmental director and its coordinator for the effort. “The more participation we have, the more we pick up: this year's tally was 5,400 pounds.”

Mantz said some the debris gathered this year included a pair of flag poles, a Weed Eater and a pair of eyeglasses. “It is amazing some of the debris the volunteers drag up,” she said.

J.J. Keever, the VPA’s deputy executive director, was among the volunteers. “We have a mandate to be as responsible as we can for the waterways we use and lending a hand one morning to help clean up the shoreline is the least we can do.”

In addition to the VPA volunteers, people from Maersk Line Limited, Capes Shipping Agencies, the U.S. Navy, Virginia Beach Fire Department, Co. No. 1, Hapag-Lloyd of America, Hampton Roads Marine Shipping, Malcolm Pirnie and Moffatt & Nichol also gave their time.

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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 343,000 jobs, \$41 billion in total revenues throughout the Commonwealth.**

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