

The National Maritime Historical Society 60th Anniversary Awards Gala

You could hardly turn around without bumping into a great conversation and running into old friends and new who are active members of our maritime heritage community. For that reason alone, the evening was exciting. Dinner chairs Pam Rorke Levy and Matt Brooks set the tone with their warm and gracious welcome, and they were followed by a line-up of engaging presenters and awardees.

NMHS trustee Richard Scarano was this year's recipient of the David A. O'Neil Sheet Anchor Award. We learned about Rick's life around boats, from messing with them as a kid to building a successful shipbuilding business with his brother and establishing the tour boat company Classic Harbor Line. Rick's involvement in NMHS and the historic ship preservation community at large has been meaningful to many individuals and organizations. In his remarks, Rick said, "It's been a real privilege and great

fun to be part of the National Maritime Historical Society for the last 17 years or so; it's allowed me to meet a wonderful bunch of people who share not just a common interest, but perhaps a common philosophy as well."

In presenting the NMHS Distinguished Service Award to Edward W. Kane, Pam Rorke Levy thanked him for the inspiration he had been to her and her husband, Matt Brooks, when they were restoring the Olin Stephens-designed classic yacht *Dorade*. Ed Kane enchanted our guests with stories surrounding his decision to buy *Bolero*—another Olin Stephens boat—and the process of restoring her and returning her to sea. Kane extolled the merits of NMHS and gave a shout-out to *Sea History*: "I've been reading the



PHOTOS BY ALLISON LUCAS

How proud Olin Stephens, our 2006 Distinguished Service Award recipient and designer of both *Dorade* and *Bolero*, would have been to see Pam Rorke Levy and Matt Brooks (right) presenting Ed Kane with this award.

magazine for decades and I just think it does a superb job of talking about all aspects of maritime activities, obviously from a historical point of view."

(above left) Rik van Hemmen spoke of his long history with the boating and shipbuilding Scarano family, when he presented Rick Scarano with the NMHS David A. O'Neil Sheet Anchor Award.

(left) NMHS trustees—Vice Chair Riccardo Lopes and Chair Jim Noone at left, and Treasurer William H. White to the right—join Mark Barker, Richard du Moulin and James Barker in celebration of their awards.





Jim Barker (on the podium) shared how our master of ceremonies, Richard du Moulin (standing, at left), did not get a bonus for his first summer job—which was with Jim Barker at Interlake—to the amusement of son Mark and our guests.

When the awards committee nominated James and Mark Barker, father-and-son owners and operators of Interlake Steamship Company, for the NMHS Distinguished Service Award, Richard du Moulin, who has served as our esteemed master of ceremonies for 25 years, remarked that it was James Barker who had given him his first job in shipping. Du Moulin praised the Barkers as effective and forward-thinking business owners who care deeply about the Great Lakes, the shipping industry, and their employees and clients. “The American maritime industry is the invisible grease that keeps our economy moving,” Jim Barker shared in his remarks. In 2022 Interlake Steamship Co. launched the first new ship built on the Great Lakes in 35 years—the 639-foot *Mark W. Barker*. “We are proud to be US owned, and proud to be a Jones Act company,” Mark Barker said.

This dinner would not have been possible without the sponsorship of Matt Brooks and Pam Rorke Levy, Caddell Dry Dock and Repair Company, Inc., Interlake Steamship Company, Moran Towing Company, and NMHS trustee William H. White. We are particularly grateful to Bill White for spearheading our 60th Anniversary Campaign, which enables us to develop our programs and continue the work we do keeping maritime heritage alive.

The gala was so much more than what can be conveyed in writing, but our hope is that this brief introduction will entice you to join us for next year’s gala on 24 October 2024. ⚓

—Burchenal Green, NMHS President Emeritus



Cathy Green (left), executive director of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, came to support and honor our award recipients representing the Great Lakes. Here, she joins *Sea History* editor Deirdre O'Regan for the festivities.