Once again, Ports America Chesapeake has been extremely successful in 2016 by reducing the number of Lost Time Injuries; meaning fewer of our workers are being injured on the job.

Since 2004, we have steadily reduced the number and severity of accidents and injuries on our facilities. We have seen yearly improvements, and our degree of dedication to safe practices by all employees has soared.

The Ports America team appreciates your assistance, commitment and dedication to safety that helps us achieve a work environment wherein we make a conscious effort to be our brother’s keeper.

Everyone should make a conscious effort to look out for one another so we may all return home to our families at the end of the work day safely.
On July 19, 2016, Port of Baltimore welcomed the Ever Lambent, Evergreen’s first container ship to transit the newly expanded Panama Canal. The Panama Canal has just completed a nine year project to allow larger vessels to transit through the Canal.

This project has been greatly anticipated by PAC. Over the past several years, PAC has made terminal improvements and investments to be ready for handling these larger vessels. Seagirt Marine Terminal is one of only three east coast facilities capable of handling these container vessels.

The Port is currently the leading port for handling autos, farm and construction equipment. These improvements, as well as SMT being recognized for having best vessel turn times, have made Baltimore a much more attractive Port. Thus, bringing more work opportunities to Baltimore.

The Port of Baltimore generates 13,650 direct jobs, and an additional 127,700 jobs related to Port activities.

On August 6, 2016, the Port community lost our greatest advocate and supporter, Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley.

Because of her many contributions to the Port of Baltimore, the Port was named in her honor by Governor Robert Ehrlich. She understood that the Port could be an economic generator by creating jobs and supporting the maritime industry.

She came into this world as a child of immigrants, and after attending college at the University of Missouri, she began working as a newspaper reporter. She found her way to Baltimore in 1945 and her love affair with the city and the Port took root.

Mrs. Bentley worked for the Baltimore Sun for a quarter of a century, covering the waterfront in print as well as on early TV. She then moved to the Chairperson of the Federal Maritime Commission, appointed by President Richard Nixon. Finally, she made her way to the Congress, serving a decade, advising several Presidents and the Congress on Maritime affairs and labor issues.

Throughout her time in Congress, she was instrumental in legislation to facilitate the 50-foot channel in the Chesapeake Bay. Her efforts have widely recognized with the recent widening of the Panama Canal. Baltimore is only one of three Ports currently able to handle the larger vessels traveling through the new canal.

Congresswoman Bentley was a true visionary, and will surely be missed. Her tireless commitment and unwavering devotion have left an indelible footprint that will remain as her legacy throughout history.

Complacency is one of the largest problems facing our everyday safety. We are all used to things happening in certain ways on a daily basis. These situations remain unnoticed unless they affect us personally. This state of mind can affect our safety, quality and productivity.

There are many hidden dangers when operating on autopilot in the workplace and in our lives. Most of us do not realize how complacent we have become until a near miss or accident occurs. When these events strike, they remind us to refocus our attention on the task at hand.

One of the best ways to fight complacency is to observe the actions of our coworkers as they go about their daily routines. This can raise your awareness and raise your coworker's awareness as you share your observations with them. This practice will remind us to work in a safe and effective manner.

Try to do this as you are working - it may be beneficial to you and your coworkers.

Ports America Chesapeake will be hosting our Fall Safety Awareness Day on Thursday, October 27, 2016 from 11:45 a.m. until 1 p.m. The event has grown over the years, and we have hosted over 400 members of Locals 333, 2066, 1429, 953, as well as PAC employees and our customers.

This event allows the Port Community to come together and celebrate our safety accomplishments over the years, and to recognize that Safety has become a part of our everyday culture.

There will be various displays, blood pressure screenings, games and prizes.

Personnel will also be on site to assist PAC employees with installing and utilizing the new Call-Out App.