

## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Maritime Union Statement on Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse in Baltimore*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Marine Engineers’ Beneficial Association (M.E.B.A.) released the following statement in response to the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore:

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and families of the bridge collapse in Baltimore. We are grateful for the support of the U.S. Coast Guard, first responders, firefighters, police officers, and frontline workers who are ensuring the safety of everyone affected. As we await a formal investigation from the NTSB, we are soberly reminded of the cruel phrase in our industry that *‘rules are written in blood.’* This unfortunate incident highlights the need for strong safety standards in the global maritime industry that fall short of those in the U.S. Merchant Marine. While we continue to learn more about what happened on this tragic day, all global ship operators must avoid future accidents contributed by poor working and operating standards that utilize minimum crewing for profit at the expense of human life and safety.”

### ***About the Marine Engineers’ Beneficial Association***

*The M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. We represent a large and diverse mix of engineers and deck officers, experienced and skilled in all aspects of the maritime workforce. Our marine officers crew the most technologically advanced ships in the U.S.-flag fleet, including tankers, Great Lakes vessels, cruise and container ships. We sail aboard Government-contracted ships of the U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command and the Maritime Administration’s Ready Reserve Force, on tugs and ferry fleets around the country, LNG vessels and in various capacities in the shoreside industries.*

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