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JEFFERSON COUNTY WELCOMES COAST GUARD STAFF

Admiral keynotes reception welcoming U.S. Coast Guard staff displaced by Hurricane Katrina

Kearneysville, WV, December 20, 2006 – U.S. Coast Guard personnel, including staff displaced by Hurricane Katrina received a warm welcome to Jefferson County today, as Rear Admiral Brian Salerno from U.S. Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, DC greeted elements of the National Maritime Center at a reception marking their move to the Eastern Panhandle.

The reception also marked public announcement of the new name for Jefferson Business Park, where the Coast Guard will be located while their new permanent headquarters is being constructed in Martinsburg.

Jim Ruland, managing partner of RAI Properties, LLC that hosted the holiday reception welcomed all to the occasion and recognized the federal, state and local dignitaries present.

“As a retired naval officer I am especially proud to welcome you,” he said. “We know and respect the importance of your service to our nation, especially in an era when mariner documentation is a matter of national security. It is an honor for us to have you here and we will do all in our power to make your stay as productive and enjoyable as possible.”

“This is a win for the Coast Guard,” said Admiral Salerno. “We could not have made the move so well without the exceptional support from RAI Properties. We also thank West Virginia’s Congressional delegation, who have lighted the way for the Coast Guard to take advantage of the state’s quality of life, cost efficiency and nearness to Washington.”

“Technology makes West Virginia a maritime state,” said Salerno. “From here the Coast Guard ensures fast, accurate documentation, security checks and medical review for over a quarter million U.S. merchant mariners.” Salerno noted that the entire National Maritime Center, which credentials mariners serving the nation’s waterways and ports, will be located to West Virginia’s Eastern Panhandle by August, 2006.

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Captain Ernest J. Fink, Commanding Officer of the National Maritime Center, expressed his appreciation to RAI Properties personnel “for their initiative and interaction with my staff, which has resulted in a smooth and seamless transition.” He thanked the dedication of Coast Guard personnel who have continued their service despite the hardships of Hurricane Katrina and welcomed them to the professional facilities at Jefferson Business Park.

Mr. Charles Green, Project Manager and Contracting Officer for the U.S. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, Mid-Atlantic Region commented, “We conducted a careful search for a location to support Coast Guard operations and were impressed by quality of the office space here. We have been equally impressed by the efforts of RAI Properties to provide support in a timely manner to meet the Coast Guard’s requirements.”

Concluding the event, Ruland then asked all present to join him in a ceremonial ribbon cutting to mark the opening of the new offices and to signal “commissioning” the entire facility under its new name as Jefferson Business Park.

“We believe our almost twenty-acre campus, which will soon have more than 125,000 sq ft of space within the tax-advantaged boundaries of County-owned Burr Park, is truly the most desirable business address in Jefferson County,” said Ruland.

“We have been pioneering commercial business infrastructure in Jefferson County since 2003. Today’s launch of our new identity as Jefferson Business Park signals our continuing commitment to economic development in our part of West Virginia.”

Jefferson Business Park tenants include the new WV Regional Office of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Bank of Charles Town, Fresenius Medical (the county’s first dialysis treatment center), Appalachian Trail Conservancy and, Biztech, which is the Jefferson County business incubator and telecommuting center.

“It’s very exciting that global operations come to our area and find first-class facilities like Jefferson Business Park,” said Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce President Chris Colbert. “RAI Properties is setting the standard for providing the state-of-the-art facilities needed for our region’s economic development.”

For more information about Jefferson Business Park, visit www.raiprops.com, or call 304.728.0192.

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