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**NEW DEPUTY BRANCH PILOTS APPOINTED TO SUPPORT PORT
FREEPORT'S GROWTH**

FREEPORT, TX (February 20, 2025)—The Pilot Commission of Port Freeport has approved the appointment of Captain Theron Pfeifer and Captain Connor Willcox as Deputy Branch Pilots. This decision strengthens pilotage services to accommodate the ongoing growth of Port Freeport. Their Deputy Branch Pilot certificates took effect on February 15, 2025.

As Port Freeport experiences record growth and increased vessel traffic, the addition of two Deputy Branch Pilots reinforces the port's commitment to safe, efficient, and reliable navigation services. Pilots play a crucial role in facilitating the flow of commerce by expertly guiding vessels throughout the port's waterway.

“Port Freeport is growing at an unprecedented pace, and ensuring we have the necessary infrastructure and personnel to support this expansion is a top priority,” said Ravi Singhania, Chairman of the Port Freeport Commission. “The appointment of Captains Pfeifer and Willcox is a testament to our commitment to safety, efficiency, and world-class service for port users.”

With extensive training and experience, Captains Pfeifer and Willcox bring exceptional expertise to their new roles. Their appointments are pivotal as Port Freeport continues investing in infrastructure and deepening its channel to accommodate larger vessels.

“The Brazos Pilots are excited to support growth across the Freeport Harbor Channel. We have amplified our capabilities with the selection of Captain Theron Pfeifer and Captain Connor Willcox. They bring a wealth of maritime knowledge and professionalism to an organization that expects excellence,” said Captain Ross Coviello, President of the Brazos Pilots Association.

About Captain Theron Pfeifer

Captain Theron Pfeifer is a highly skilled mariner with extensive experience in vessel operations and navigation. He has served in various capacities aboard commercial vessels and has completed rigorous training to qualify as a Deputy Branch Pilot. His expertise in maritime safety and operational efficiency will contribute significantly to Port Freeport's pilotage services.

About Captain Connor Willcox

Captain Connor Willcox brings a strong background in ship handling, navigation, and maritime logistics. He has completed comprehensive training in local waterways and pilotage procedures, ensuring his readiness to support vessel movements within the Freeport Harbor Channel. His commitment to excellence and safety makes him a valuable addition to the Brazos Pilots Association.

As Port Freeport continues to expand its operations, these strategic appointments reinforce the port's dedication to facilitating global trade while maintaining the highest standards of safety and efficiency.

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranks nationally as 6th in chemicals, 14th in total foreign waterborne tonnage, and 26th in containers. A 2022 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 266,300 jobs and has a total economic output of \$157.3 billion. Port Freeport serves Alliera, Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products Partners, ExxonMobil, Freeport LNG, Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc., Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Linde, MEGlobal, NYK RORO, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallau Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy, Volkswagen Group of America, and Vulcan Materials Company.

Port Freeport is committed to keeping the local community informed of our operation and results. If you have questions or comments about this article, please email or call Amanda Veliz, Public Affairs Manager.



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PHOTO CUTLINE: Members of the Port Freeport Pilot Commission, the Executive Director/CEO of Port Freeport, and pilots from the Brazos Pilots Association stand alongside the two new Deputy Branch Pilots, Captain Theron Pfeifer and Captain Connor Willcox.