

Gary P. LaGrange
President and Chief Executive Officer
Port of New Orleans

Gary LaGrange took leadership of the Port of New Orleans in September 2001. A native of South Louisiana, Mr. LaGrange came to New Orleans after serving as Executive Director of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport.

Mr. LaGrange worked tenaciously to bring the Port of New Orleans back into operation after the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. A mere two weeks after Hurricane Katrina and with limited resources and personnel, LaGrange's leadership was instrumental in the triumph of bringing the first container ship back the Port of New Orleans, despite projections to the contrary. Within six months, the port was at 80% of its pre-Katrina ship calls and today the Port has regained its pre-Katrina cargo volumes.

Since LaGrange became CEO, the port has opened a new state-of-the art container, cruise and cold storage facilities, and continues to renovate and expand.

His commitment to the maritime industry is reflected in the numerous leadership positions he has held at state, regional and national levels. He recently served as Chairman of the American Association of Port Authorities, an alliance of 350 ports in the Western Hemisphere. He also serves on the boards of the Gulf Ports Association of the Americas and is past chairman and past president of the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association. He is Vice President of the National Waterways Council and serves on the Board of the Waterways Council, Inc. Mr. LaGrange was named the Maritime Person of the Year by the Propeller Club of New Orleans in 2003 and the Maritime Person of the Year by the Propeller Club of the Port of Gulfport in 2001. He was recently named the Man of Steel by the American Institute for International Steel (AIIS), as well as receiving the Leadership Award for Post Katrina by the International Maritime Association Hall of Fame at the United Nations in New York.

Mr. LaGrange attended Louisiana State University. He received his B.A. in Geography/Economics from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (formerly University of Southwestern Louisiana). He completed a Master of Arts in Urban Planning, with honors, at USL in 1975. He taught Economic Geography and Urban Planning at the university through its University College.

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