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GOVERNOR EHRLICH NAMES PORT OF BALTIMORE AFTER THE HONORABLE HELEN DELICH BENTLEY

BALTIMORE, MD --- At a formal event recognizing the 300th anniversary of Maryland's Port of Baltimore, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. tonight announced that the Port will be renamed the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore. In renaming the Port after the former Congresswoman, Chairman of the United States Federal Maritime Commission, and longtime Port advocate, Governor Ehrlich recognizes Ms. Bentley's commitment to the Port's future. New signs and logos reflecting the name change will begin to be used in 2007.

"For more than five decades, the name of Helen Delich Bentley has been synonymous with the Port of Baltimore," said Governor Ehrlich. "There has been no one who has championed the vital role the Port plays in both the global economy and our everyday lives more than Helen. Although she has enjoyed a spectacularly diverse career, from newspaper reporter to Congresswoman, she has always been known as the "mother of the port."

Ms. Bentley's first career was as a maritime reporter and editor for *The Baltimore Sun*, where in her 24-year tenure she created one of the most respected maritime sections in the nation. She broke important national stories through a dogged determination and a personal style that made her famous from the boardrooms to the docks. Her coverage of the supply problem for America's war effort in Vietnam led to the institutions of containers as the preferred method of cargo transport.

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In 1950, she moved into television. Ms. Bentley acted as reporter, director, editor, and producer for her series, “The Port That Built a City,” and, later, “The Port That Built a City – and State.” Throughout, she still wrote and edited at *The Sun*. Her focus on the Port of Baltimore intensified both public and government awareness of the Port’s substantial economic impact on Maryland.

From 1969 through 1975, Ms. Bentley served as Chairman of the United States Federal Maritime Commission. At the time, she was the fourth-highest ranking woman in the history of Federal government.

From 1985 through 1995, Ms. Bentley served in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Maryland’s 2nd Congressional District. While in Congress, she sat on the Appropriations, Budget, Public Works & Transportation and Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committees, in addition to the Steel, Art, Northeast, Human Rights and Trade and Tourism Caucuses.

Since 1995, she has been President and CEO of Helen Bentley & Associates, Inc., specializing in government relations and business development. Ms. Bentley is also a consultant to the Maryland Port Administration and a small businesswoman.

Throughout her career, Ms. Bentley has tirelessly promoted two primary issues – the advancement of America’s maritime community, and America’s industrial and manufacturing base.

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