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IMUA HONORS THREE AT 85th ANNUAL MEETING

James Cunningham Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

New York, NY, May 27, 2015 – James A. Cunningham, Product Line Leadership, Railroad Department at Merkel Corporation and a former member of the IMUA Board of Directors of the Inland Marine Underwriters Association (IMUA), was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Association's 85th Annual Meeting held earlier this month. Mr. Cunningham was one of three individuals recognized by the IMUA at this year's Annual Meeting. The others included Jean M. Gardner, Partner, Hill Rivkins, LLP – Excellence in Education; and Laurie Shaver, Assistant Vice President, Catlin U.S. – 2015 Outstanding Committee Person.

The Awards presentation took place at the IMUA's closing ceremonies during its 85th Annual Meeting held in Charlotte, NC.

In presenting Mr. Cunningham with IMUA's highest recognition, The Lifetime Achievement Award, James Drewry, former IMUA Chairman and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, cited his long list of achievements since joining the IMUA. In particular he noted, "Jim has been active in the IMUA since 1970. In fact, among his many credits is the fact that he has attended every IMUA Annual Meeting since 1978 and has served on the IMUA Board of Directors for 21 years."

Jim Cunningham has served on the Transportation, Construction, Motor Truck/Air Cargo and Instrumentalities of Communication and Transportation Committees. He is considered an expert among his peers in underwriting inland marine railroad exposures and has devoted much time and effort in helping to educate industry professionals in this niche business. He has been a featured presenter at the IMUA Annual Meeting and regional seminars and has contributed to numerous IMUA committee white papers through the years.

"Jim is a true industry professional. He was a technical advisor and participated in manuscript review for the development of the Institutes AMIM 122 Course, the definitive industry education text for commercial inland marine insurance. Jim continues to be an active, engaged member of the IMUA and always willing to dedicate time and effort to the advancement of IMUA," concluded Mr. Drewry.

In accepting his award, Mr. Cuningham said, "It has been a privilege and an honor to serve both this industry and the IMUA. I have never viewed my participation as an obligation, but rather as a means of helping others in their professional development. As an association we can only be as effective as our membership allows. That is why I became involved with the IMUA and have continued ever since. And, I strongly urge our members to continue to carry the mantle forward and work for the betterment of this great association."

As the winner of the Excellence in Education Award, Jean Gardner was recognized for her key contributions to advancing the education and training platform of IMUA. Over the years she has presented at many IMUA events including Annual Meetings, regional seminars and courses.

Ms. Gardner has unique professional experience as an attorney litigating cases relating to motor truck cargo and warehouse legal liability insurance and as the CEO of CAB, a firm that provides underwriters with critical financial analysis of motor carriers. Jean's vast transportation supply chain knowledge and her energetic and engaging presentation style have made her one of the most sought after speakers for IMUA events.

She has been an active, engaged member of the IMUA Transportation Committee for 18 years and is a major contributor to transportation related white papers and course development.

Laurie Shaver has been involved in IMUA for a number of years, currently serving as the co-chair of the IMUA Great Lakes Regional Advisory Group and active member of the Marketing & Communications Committee.

As co-chair of the Great Lakes Regional Group for the past several years, Ms. Shaver has produced several inland marine education events. The sessions have provided the region with localized seminars featuring informative presenters and terrific networking opportunities.

Other contributions to the associations' growth include her participation in the 2011– 2012 IMUA Strategic Planning Committee which helped shape the IMUA's focus on education and professional development.

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IMUA is the national association for the commercial inland marine insurance industry. IMUA serves as the voice of its member companies representing over 90 percent of all commercial inland marine insurers. The association provides its members with comprehensive training and educational programs, including research papers and bulletins, industry analysis and seminars. IMUA was founded in 1930.