HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL ROLAND REXHA

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL ROLAND REXHA SEC/TREAS MEBA Roland Rexha, the Secretary Treasurer of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA), is a highly accomplished and dedicated professional with a remarkable journey. Born in Brooklyn, New York, to Albanian immigrant parents, Roland’s upbringing instilled in him a strong work ethic and a deep appreciation for his

heritage. his educational path led him to attend public schools in New York City, where he excelled academically. Recognizing his potential, he was nominated to attend the prestigious United States Merchant Marine Academy. Eager to pursue his passion for marine engineering, Roland embraced

the opportunity and embarked on a transformative educational experience.After graduating with a degree in marine engineering, Roland's commitment to service led him to work on a merchant seaman during the Iraqi Freedom conflict. His exceptional skills and dedication earned him two Merchant Marine Accommodations, highlighting his outstanding contributions to the maritime industry.

Roland's dedication to service extended beyond his time as a merchant seaman. He also served

in the Naval Reserve, where he continued to contribute his expertise and leadership. After eight

years of commendable service, Roland was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant, further

solidifying his commitment to his country.

Following his time in the Naval Reserve, Roland returned to New York and served as an engineer at the Staten Island Ferry. For 13 years, he dedicated himself to ensuring the safety and efficiency of the ferry operations. During his tenure, Roland also served as a shop steward for the last five years, advocating for the rights and well-being of his fellow workers. Roland's exceptional leadership and negotiation skills were instrumental in resolving a 13-year wage stalemate between the Staten Island Ferry and the city of New York. Through his efforts, he successfully brought

wages at the Staten Island Ferry to the highest paid ferry in the country, benefiting all workers involved.In addition to his role as the Secretary Treasurer of MEBA, Roland made history by being elected to the AFL-CIO Executive Council, becoming its youngest member. This significant achievement not only reflects his expertise and dedication but also marks the first time MEBA has had a seat on the council. Roland’s presence on the council allows him to advocate for the concerns of MEBA members and the broader maritime industry, ensuring their voices are heard at the highest level.

Roland Rexha is a passionate advocate for mariner, passenger, and vessel safety. His commitment to ensuring the well-being of those involved in the maritime industry is unwavering, and he continues to work tirelessly to promote safety standards and best practices. Outside of his professional endeavors, Roland finds joy and fulfillment in his personal life. He has been happily married to his wife Lori for 11 years, and together they have three children: Ryan (9), Mina (6), and Ronald (3). Roland's dedication to his family mirrors his commitment to his work, as he strives to create a better future for them and the rnaritirne cornrnurlity.

Roland Rexha's journey from a Brooklyn-born son of Albanian immigrants to the Secretary Treasurer of MEBA is a testament to his resilience, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of mariners. His exceptional service, advocacy, and dedication to safety have made him a respected figure within the industry, ensuring a prosperous future for IVIEBA and its members.