



*Captain Ronald Garcia of the **Cattleya Ace** receives a welcoming plaque on the occasion of the ship's first call at the Port of Philadelphia. Pictured with Captain Garcia are PRPA staffers Frank Camp and Dominic O'Brien (holding plaque)*

The First Call of the Auto Carrier Ship *Cattleya Ace* to the Port of Philadelphia

Plaque Presentation at PRPA's Packer Avenue Marine Terminal

(Philadelphia, November 15) Captain Ronald Garcia likes working on car carrier vessels: "It is hard for pirates to board our ship!" he said during his vessel's first visit to the Port of Philadelphia.

Garcia, who has worked for ship operator **MOL** since 1989, has developed a specialization working on the large, box-like, pure car carrier vessels. He is very happy with his latest ship, the 655 foot long ***Cattleya Ace***, which made its first call to the PRPA's Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT) on November 15.

Some ship captains avoid work on the pure car carrier vessels, because they do not stay in port as long as some other ships. Vessels carrying steel cargos, for example, often stay in port for one or two days. Car carriers, in comparison, often leave port after a few hours.

But Captain Garcia said that while sailing near Somalia, he has passed pirates who looked confused about how to board the high, solid side panels of his car carrier ships. So he feels safer on the car carriers.



The **Cattleya Ace** has a cargo capacity of 6,400 cars. It brought new Hyundai and Kia autos from Korea to Philadelphia, and will bring used cars to Africa. The ship was built in Japan, and launched in September of this year.

478 autos were offloaded at PAMT, which is less than the usual 1,100 or 1,200 vehicles that usually come off the ramp in Philadelphia on the MOL vessels. 55 workers were involved in the offloading, including longshoremen and supervisors employed by **Greenwich Terminals**.



*Captain Garcia pictured with the PRPA's Dominic O'Brien and Maia Murphy of **Norton Lilly International**, the ship's agent in Philadelphia,*

Captain Garcia and his crew of 23 mariners arrived at PAMT at about 4:00 PM, and the **Cattleya Ace** left the dock at 9:30 PM. After leaving Philadelphia, they planned to proceed to Baltimore, then Boston, and finally to Africa.



To learn more about how the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority Marketing Department can help you grow your business, call Frank Camp at (215) 426-2600.

The Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PRPA) is an independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its primary mission is the enhancement of water-borne trade and commerce. PRPA seeks to generate activity that will maximize port-related employment and revenues. Port activity generates thousands of direct and indirect jobs in the Philadelphia area and throughout Pennsylvania.

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