

PORT COMMISSIONER JAMES R. HERMAN

Mr. James Herman, former President of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) and former Port Commissioner, was born and raised in Newark, N.J. He has been a trade unionist since he was a teenager, going to sea at the tender age of 17 as a member of the National Union of Marine Cooks and stewards. He subsequently served that union as national office representative, as Portland Port Agent and as Gulf representative.

He settled in San Francisco in the early 1950's, Mr. Herman became a member of Local 6 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, working in a variety of warehouses and plants in the Bay Area. He transferred to the ILWU waterfront division in 1956, becoming a member of Ship Clerks Local 34. He was elected vice-president in 1960. A year later he was elected president of the local.

For the next 17 years, as head of Local 34, Mr. Herman was among the most active and dynamic west coast union leaders. Within the ILWU he was involved in a wide variety of bargaining and contract enforcement activities. He was a frequent delegate to union conventions. He served on the Pacific Coast longshore negotiating committee continuously, beginning in 1962, and on the ILWU International Executive Board from 1969. He participated in the ILWU legislative and political activities in Oakland. He also represented the ILWU in several international trade union conferences.

Mr. Herman was also active in other areas of the labor movement. For many years, he was deeply involved in assisting the United Farm Workers Union. In August, 1972, he was elected co-chairman of the San Francisco United Labor Action Committee, which worked to support and settle several important and difficult strikes in the Bay Area. He was honored as "Labor Man of the Year" in 1973 by the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

As a resident of San Francisco's Potrero Hill neighborhood, Mr. Herman was deeply involved in community affairs, serving on the Board of Directors of St. Anthony's Kitchen and on the Board of Directors of the Drug Rehabilitation Program of the Delancey Street Foundation. He was also the chairman of the Bay Dredging Action Coalition.

In 1982, he was appointed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein to the San Francisco Port Commission. He was reappointed to the Port Commission by Mayor Agnos in 1990. He served as President of the Port Commission in 1990 and 1991 and as Vice President of the Port Commission in 1993.

In April 1994, Port Commissioners and staff presented a Resolution Awarding Commissioner James R. Herman the Maritime Order of Merit, with the Rank of Commander.

In March 1996, Mayor Willie Brown reappointed Mr. Herman to the Port Commission. In his years with the Port Commission, he has been an advocate for maritime industries and job creation for San Franciscans. He was very active along the waterfront in Port and union business. He contributed significantly to his neighborhood and the City.

Mr. Herman passed away in March 1998. In May 1998, the Port Commission adopted a resolution designating the future cruise terminal as the James R. Herman Cruise Terminal, at a site to be later determined by the San Francisco Port Commission.