

## **Columbia River Bar Pilots & the Jones F. Devlin Safety Award**

The Columbia River Bar Pilots (CRBP) were recently awarded the prestigious Jones F. Devlin Safety Award in recognition of the outstanding safety performance and operational excellence demonstrated by the crews aboard the pilot boats *COLUMBIA* and *ASTORIA*. This award reflects the unwavering commitment of CRBP leadership, crews, and support personnel to maintaining the highest standards of maritime professionalism, seamanship, and risk management while operating in one of the most challenging maritime environments in the world — the Columbia River Bar.

The group sent Brock Johnson and his wife Rylee to collect the awards for the P/Vs *COLUMBIA* and *ASTORIA*.

Brock is one of the Operators' for the CRBP. He has been with them full time since 2016. Brock is local, he grew up in the Astoria area. He started as deckhand, obtained his 100-ton license and has been operating the boats for CRBP for several years. It is a 'family affair' as his brother Reese is also an 'Operator'.

CRBP have received the award year in, year out for at least the last 8 years. These awards highlight CRBP's exceptional safety culture and continuous focus on protecting pilots, crews, vessels, and the maritime transportation system through disciplined operations, training, maintenance, and adherence to best practices. The pilot boats *COLUMBIA* and *ASTORIA* play a critical role in safely transferring pilots to and from deep draft vessels transiting the Columbia River Bar and surrounding offshore waters, often in severe weather and hazardous sea conditions.

This recognition is a testament to the professionalism, proficiency, and dedication of the Columbia River Bar Pilots organization and reinforces the importance of their mission in ensuring safe, reliable, and efficient pilotage services for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest maritime community.

