

Bay Shipbuilding tug christening

Samantha Hernandez, Gannett Wisconsin Media 9:24 p.m. CDT September 30, 2015



(Photo: Heidi Hodges/For Gannett Wisconsin Media)

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STURGEON BAY — Bay Shipbuilding Co./Fincantieri held a christening for the tug Leigh Ann Moran and the barge Mississippi on Tuesday morning.

The owner of the tug is Moran Towing Corp., which is leasing the tug for five years to Chevron Shipping Co. The tug is named after longtime Chevron employee Bill Engibous' wife, Leigh Ann Engibous. The Engibouses — who have both worked for Chevron — and their four children attended the event at Bay Ship. The Mississippi is named after the state where Leigh Ann Engibous was born and where the couple met and married.

The ATB type tug Leigh Ann is 121 feet long and 36 feet wide. The tug and barge are expected to head to Corpus Christi, Texas, to be turned over to the Chevron Shipping Co.

A number of local dignitaries, including Sturgeon Bay Mayor Thad Birmingham and state Rep. Joel Kitchens, R-Sturgeon Bay, attended the event along with more than 500 Bay Ship employees.

Paul Tregurtha, founder and chairman of Moran Towing Corp., gave the ceremony's opening address.

"It's so great to see all of you who have physically have hands on doing the welding, bending the pipe, putting in the electrical things," Tregurtha said to the crowd. "It's because of your work and pride you obviously take in efficiency, that we have this beautiful tug and barge. I can assure you we will make you proud of how we are going to use it."

Francesco Valente, president and CEO of Fincantieri, praised the Bay Ship workers and called Tuesday a "great day."

"I say it's a great day as it marks the continuation of a great partnership between Bay Shipbuilding, Moran and Interlake (Steamship Co.)," Valente said.

Bay Shipbuilding has another tug and barge to complete for Moran.

"Of the first tug ever built it is very important to us," Valente said.

Bill Engibous christened the Mississippi and Leigh Ann christened her namesake. The Rev. Anthony Birdsall blessed the tug and barge.

Leigh Ann Engibous called the tug being named after her "amazing."

"It's something I never thought would happen to me," she said after the ceremony.