News Release

PORT OF SHELTON MOURNS SUDDEN DEATH OF LONG-TIME COMMISSIONER DICK TAYLOR

Shelton, WA – September 2026 – It is with deep regret that the Port of Shelton announces the sudden passing of longtime Port Commissioner Dick Taylor and extends its deepest sympathies to his wife, Marlene, his family and many friends throughout our community and beyond. Taylor was first elected as a Port of Shelton Commissioner representing Position 2 in 2012 and that year, he was elected Chairman of the Board and remained Chairman ever since. "Dick's calm personality and kindness made him a great leader for the Port Commission", said Kristy Buck, Commissioner Position 3. "He always had a sea story to tell and made everyone feel comfortable in the room."

Taylor spent his lifetime in service to our country and his local community. He spent 34 years in the US Navy, advancing from Seaman Recruit to Commander. He was a UW Graduate and received his Masters in Business Administration in 2007. His business background included being a real estate agent, the project manager for Paul Allen's submarine construction and he was the executive director of Shelton-Mason Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Taylor was also the executive director of a not-for-profit firm providing services to developmentally disabled adults. He previously served 6 years as the City of Shelton's Commissioner of Finance.

His focus as Port Commissioner was on job creation, particularly in the manufacturing sector. During his time on the Commission, Taylor was involved with several significant projects and initiatives that advanced the Port's mission, including the addition of several new companies and jobs at the Port, leading to an impressive job creation on Port property to over 1000 jobs. Most recently, Taylor has supported the expansion and new manufacturing facilities for Lynch Creek Farm, SQRL LLC, and Olympic Mountain Ice Cream and supported the move of MACECOM to Port property. Newest member of the Commission, Jeff Neely, said he will definitely be missed and fondly added, "I will never forget the day I was sworn in and Dick leaned over and said, 'Welcome aboard, Mate!'"

In addition to his career and Port work, Taylor was dedicated to his community and actively involved in several service clubs, his church and most recently serving as a Chaplain for Central Mason Fire and EMS. "Commissioner Taylor had a positive and meaningful influence on Port staff, his fellow Port Commissioners, and the public" said Port Executive Director Wendy Smith, "I had the honor of working

with Dick for many years and admired and respected him for always making decisions in the best interest of our community. His impact as a Port Commissioner will last forever."

Plans to honor Taylor's service to the Port of Shelton and the greater Mason County community will be announced at a later date. The Port is required to appoint a new commissioner to replace Taylor within 90 days following his death. Next steps for the selection process will be discussed at a Regular Meeting of the Port Commission at 2pm on Tuesday, October 6, 2026.

ABOUT THE PORT

The Port brings jobs and recreational opportunities through two industrial parks and a general aviation airport. The Port boasts more than 35 businesses with over 1000 employees. More information can be found at www.portofshelton.com.

Contact: Wendy Smith Executive Director 360-426-1151

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