



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Port of Mobile Financial Services Division
Awarded Excellence in Financial Reporting for 20th Time**

Mobile, Ala. – November 14, 2012. The Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Alabama State Port Authority* for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The award was presented to Larry R. Downs, Port Chief Financial Officer/Secretary Treasurer who expressed his appreciation to the Financial Services Division staff members who participated and especially to Maria Williams, the project's team leader. Jimmy Lyons, Director and CEO of Alabama State Port Authority praised Downs and his Financial Services Division: "Larry and his team consistently strive for excellence; they have been recognized with this award twenty times in 25 years. I am proud of the work they do and of their representation of our work ethic here at the Port Authority."

The GFOA describes the Certificate of Achievement as the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, representing a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. CAFRs are judged by an impartial panel and must meet not only the highest standards of the program, but also demonstrate a constructive "spirit of disclosure" clearly communicating its financial story and motivating potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving government finance professionals.

The Alabama State Port Authority owns and operates the State of Alabama's deep-water port facilities at the Port of Mobile and its public facilities handled over 25 million tons of cargo in fiscal year 2012. The Authority's container, general cargo and bulk facilities have immediate access to two interstate systems, five Class 1 railroads, and nearly 15,000 miles of inland waterway connections. Learn more at www.asdd.com.

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