



For Immediate Release:  
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## **CONRAD SHIPYARD DELIVERS 6,000HP CANAL BARGE TOWBOAT**

**Morgan City, LA:** Conrad Shipyard has delivered the 6,000-horsepower towboat, **H. MERRITT 'HEAVY' LANE, JR.**, to Canal Barge Company, Inc. (CBC) of New Orleans. Built at Conrad Amelia, the Sub-chapter M-compliant vessel measures 166' x 49' x 12' and is powered by EPA Tier IV-compliant EMD engines.

The H. MERRITT 'HEAVY' LANE, JR. utilizes a time-proven design concept that has been enhanced to modern standards through advanced engineering analysis. Efficient operation and attention to crew accommodations and noise reduction were paramount in the design process. Designed by Naval Architects MiNO Marine of New Orleans, the vessel has a unique hull form to ensure adequate water flow to the propellers in all operating conditions. The design allows the transfer of full power through the propellers, minimizing propeller vibrations transferred to the hull due to unsteady water flow. The design reduces the potential for flow-induced vibration, ensuring greater crew comfort and reduced noise.

Crew comfort was considered throughout all phases of the design process and is evident in the finished product. The superstructure is divided into two sections, one floating and one fixed. All living accommodations are located in the floating section which sits atop air bellow vibration isolators designed to minimize noise and vibration transmission from the operating machinery. Mr. Mike Stone from Canal commented, "The floating house, along with strict attention to detail related to the installation of the joiner system, has resulted in a vessel that is extremely quiet and comfortable for the crew during all operating ranges."

Founded in 1933, Canal Barge Company is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation family-owned marine transportation company. The name Canal Barge dates back to the early years when the company operated one barge exclusively along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Today CBC is one of the largest and most diverse privately-owned marine transportation and logistics solutions providers in the nation.

Conrad Shipyard Chairman and CEO Johnny Conrad reflected on the significance of the delivery: “It’s always gratifying to deliver another new vessel to a long-term and valued customer,” he said. “The craftsmanship that went into the design and construction of this modern towboat is a testament to our shipbuilding team and their unwavering commitment to quality in every detail. We value Canal Barge as a longstanding customer and are grateful for their continued confidence in Conrad Shipyard.”

“We are excited to bring online this new state-of-the-art towing vessel, which is the first 6000 HP EMD of its kind on the inland waterways,” said H. Merritt Lane, III, President and CEO of Canal Barge Company. “CBC has always understood the importance of long-term relationships, including with our vendors. We are pleased with the partnerships we have built and fostered throughout this project, and Conrad Shipyard’s workmanship, in particular, has been extraordinary. The HEAVY LANE will clearly be the flagship of our growing towboat fleet.”

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#### **ABOUT CONRAD SHIPYARD**

Conrad Shipyard was established in 1948 and is headquartered in Morgan City, Louisiana. The company designs, builds and overhauls tugboats, ferries, liftboats, barges, offshore supply vessels, LNG vessels and other steel and aluminum products for both commercial and government markets. Conrad provides repair, conversion and new construction services at its five Gulf Coast shipyards located in southern Louisiana and Texas.

For Additional Information Contact: Robert Sampey, Vice President  
at 985.384.3060 • [RASampey@conradindustries.com](mailto:RASampey@conradindustries.com)

**PHOTO(S):**

*H. Merritt 'Heavy' Lane, Jr. on Sea Trials*

