



James I. Newsome, III
President & Chief Executive Officer
South Carolina Ports Authority
Charleston, South Carolina

Jim Newsome is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the South Carolina Ports Authority in Charleston, South Carolina. He assumed that role on September 1, 2009 and is only the fifth leader in the history of the port. With twelve years in his position, he is also currently the longest serving leader of a major container port in the United States.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Newsome had an extensive career in the ocean container shipping industry. He served from 2008-2009 as President – Region Americas with Hapag-Lloyd AG. Prior to that he served as Senior Vice President – Area Southeast from 1997-2008. Prior to 2008, he held numerous positions at Strachan Shipping Company (1977-1987) and Nedlloyd Lines (1987-1997). Mr. Newsome was the first American to assume the top roles in the United States for both Hapag-Lloyd and Nedlloyd Lines.

Mr. Newsome received a BS in Transportation and Logistics in 1976 and an MBA in Transportation and Logistics in 1977 from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. He was the top graduate in the College of Business Administration for Winter Quarter, 1976. He was named the Outstanding Alumnus in Transportation and Logistics in 1992.

Mr. Newsome has received several awards and honors, to include: Outstanding Manufacturing Lifetime Service Award (2020), Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey’s International Maritime Hall of Fame (2020), Roger Milliken Defender of Manufacturing Award (2020), DC Velocity Logistics Rainmaker (2019), University of Tennessee Alumni Professional Achievement Award (2018), Agriculture Transportation Coalition, Person of the Year (2016), South Carolina Public Servant of the Year, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce (2014), Doctor of Humane Letters, The College of Charleston (2014), and Connie Award, The Containerization and Intermodal Institute (2010).

He is involved in numerous organizations within the University of Tennessee, to include College of Business Administration Dean’s Advisory Council and the Global Supply Chain Institute Executive Advisory Board. He is also on boards with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), American Heart Association, Southeast Region, and American Heart Association, Lowcountry Heart Walk, and Trident United Way, Tocqueville Society.

Mr. Newsome is a native of Savannah, Georgia. He has been married for 36 years (wife Kathy) and has two children and two grandchildren. His daughter, Rachel (35), is a school counselor in Jackson, Mississippi. His son, Matt (30), is a doctor doing his residency in urology at UK Healthcare in Lexington, Kentucky.