

## Press Release

June 24, 2014

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### **BOAT PEOPLE CELEBRATE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR RESCUE**

Exactly 25 years ago, MS VILLE DE PLUTON which was managed by REEDEREI NSB at the time, rescued 120 Vietnamese boat refugees in the Chinese Sea. After their rescue, the refugees were scattered into all parts of the world. Now the former refugees celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their rescue together with their Captain Helmut Lorenz and REEDEREI NSB in Lünen in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Last Saturday, more than 200 Vietnamese family members from all of Germany came together in the city of Lünen to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their rescue. Since their rescue they refer to themselves as the “Family VILLE DE PLUTON”, after the name of the vessel which came to their help. Their Captain has become their “Daddy Lorenz” and REEDEREI NSB their role model for taking humanitarian action. The celebration’s motto according to a Vietnamese proverb was “Family VILLE DE PLUTON says ‘Thank you Germany’! Who drinks water should also remember its source.”

Dr. Quang Dinh, who fled Vietnam as a 10-year old without his parents: „No one can imagine my happiness about this rescue. I am glad to have found a free and secure new home here in Germany. Fate has meant well for us, but take a look into the world – the problems of refugees haven’t changed until today, even 25 years after my rescue.”

Since its foundation in 1982, REEDEREI NSB has rescued a couple of hundred individuals in distress at sea. The latest case took place in September of last year when MS BUXSAILOR recovered 284 African refugees in the Libyan Sea. Helmut Ponath, CEO of REEDEREI NSB says: “For us it has always been absolutely self-evident that refugees and generally everyone in sea distress will be rescued. There is no alternative! Apart from the legal regulations which apply anyways, this is a moral necessity. At our company, we are proud and happy about each and every rescue operation.”

#### About REEDEREI NSB:

NSB Niederelbe Schifffahrtsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG (REEDEREI NSB) is one of the leading container shipping companies in the world. With a fleet of 68 vessels, the company which was founded in 1982 provides quality “Made in Germany”. Apart from the ship management of container ships, tankers and offshore jack-up vessels, REEDEREI NSB is supervising newbuildings and is active in crewing of both its own ships as well as vessels of other parties.

At its own NSBacademy, which employs a modern Ship Handling-Simulator, employees from ashore and seafarers are trained and educated on a regular basis. In its headquarters in Buxtehude and its branches in the United States, Korea and Singapore, REEDEREI NSB employs approximately 200 men and women and 2,700 seafarers.

#### **Key data of REEDEREI NSB**

TDW overall:	3,934,104
TEU capacity:	338,070
Fleet size:	68 ships

#### **Press contact**

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**REEDEREI NSB**



NSB employees  
at sea:  
on shore:

approx. 2,700  
approx. 200

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