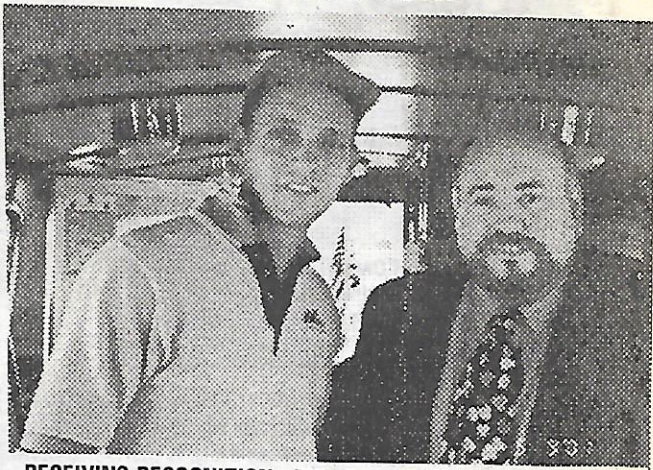


# Local deckhand sets his 'Dreams in Motion!'



**RECEIVING RECOGNITION:** Billy Fort (left) is pictured with Mayor Joseph V. Doria Jr. in the pilot house of the Corps vessel Hocking.

William "Billy" Fort, an employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-New York District, was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of the Army. He was presented with the Superior Civilian Service Award and Medals for his "superior service in his duties as deckhand aboard the survey vessels Hatton and Hocking during the recovery and support of missions after the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

"Mr. Fort, working long hours, assisted with the evacuation of people from lower Manhattan and provided extensive logistical support for rescue personnel, dignitaries and VIP's.

"Mr. Fort assisted in the operation and navigation of the vessels around the clock. He performed his duties while transiting through secure areas of New York/New Jersey Harbor under difficult conditions that restricted normal operations.

"Mr. Fort is a credit to himself, the New York District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Fort, a lifelong Bayonne resident, works at the Caven Point Marine Terminal in Jersey City. When Fort isn't working as a deckhand, he is setting his singing career in motion.

Fort wrote and produced his first music CD, "Dreams in Motion!" that includes a mix of pop, ballad and dance songs. He has written and produced 35 songs. Fort considers his songs influenced by the artists he admires, such as George Michael and Sade.

Fort is called "Frankie" on the waterfront by his colleagues because of his resemblance to a young Frank Sinatra and his 1950s James Dean look.

The talented musician said his work with the Corps inspired his music. "I won't quit my day job," he said. He enjoys being on the water, while continuing to pursue his interest in music. "If you have a dream, make a plan and follow that plan," he said.

Fort was one of several district personnel who boarded Corps vessels that headed to lower Manhattan following the September 11 terrorist attack on New York City.

Inspired by his experience during 9/11, Fort is writing a song. "It is about how human beings treat one another and the future of humanity," he said. "Time goes by fast. You can't have this time back, so enjoy yourself and do what pleases you," he added.

Fort has created a web site where his music can be downloaded at: [www.billyfort.com](http://www.billyfort.com).