

February 17, 2025

The Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet Committee is pleased to announce a great milestone for the Mississippi Gulf Coast: the year 2025 will mark the 96th anniversary of our Annual Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet and Festival. Our research indicates that our event is the oldest of its kind in the nation and the second oldest, behind the Neshoba County Fair, in the State of Mississippi.

The Blessing of the Fleet and Festival is a week-long culmination of events that continues the legacy of those who dedicated their lives to the seafood industry along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and it is the perfect opportunity to promote tourism in our area.

Since 2025 represents our 96th year, we wish to reach out along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and surrounding areas, to both locals and visitors, and inform them of all the details of the events, so they can help us celebrate this great milestone. We are hoping to use all outlets available, such as radio, television, newspaper, social media, billboards, etc., to promote the events. This will require funds which are currently beyond our means.

The Blessing events include: a poster and t-shirt competition, which involves a formal poster unveiling reception; a Mass honoring Deceased Fishermen; a formal reception honoring Blessing of the Fleet Past Royalty; a Shrimp Queen Pageant and crowning of the 2025 Shrimp King and Queen; a Shrimp Festival with live music and seafood; and, finally, a wreath dropping/boat parade/boat decoration contest in the Biloxi Channel, where each boat will receive a blessing for a bountiful and safe shrimp season. All types of water vessels are welcome to participate.

As a sponsor you will help strengthen and grow this historical event. Sponsors make it possible to keep this tradition alive. THANK YOU in advance for your support.

Please make check to: **St. Michael Blessing of the Fleet** If you need more information, you may contact me at 228-861-3755.

Sincerely,

Wendy Fayard
Festival Chairman