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New Work for AMO on Crowley Wind Farm Vessel

Crowley, through a joint venture with ESVAGT, a European leader in maritime wind farm services, is building a U.S.-flagged Service Operations Vessel (SOV), bringing new jobs in a new market for members of American Maritime Officers.

The SOV will serve the emerging off-shore wind farm market on the East Coast and will house offshore wind turbine technicians, as well as safely transport technical crews to wind turbines for planned and unplanned maintenance and repairs.

AMO is the first officers' union in the U.S. contracted to crew an offshore wind farm vessel.

"American Maritime Officers welcomes the opportunity to expand our job footprint with our partner, Crowley. As U.S. participation in the wind farm space grows, AMO looks forward to providing qualified officers through our Global Wind Organization training facility at STAR Center to our wind farm-affiliated contracted companies," said AMO National President Willie Barrere. "I'm excited our members

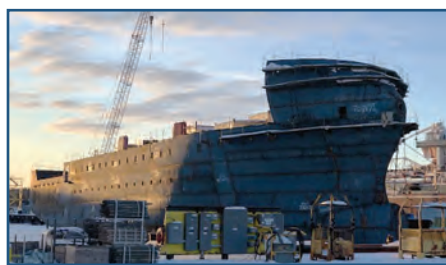


get a chance to display their expertise and professionalism in yet another aspect of the maritime industry."

Crowley and AMO entered into a long-term agreement to crew the new vessel with licensed officers. Since the SOV will operate close to the coast, officers are expected to have short rotation schedules.

The joint venture between Crowley and ESVAGT is called CREST. The SOV is currently under construction at Fincantieri in Sturgeon Bay, Wis. Once complete, the vessel is scheduled for sea trials in early 2026, with operations set to begin later that year.

"We are excited to partner with AMO to crew and operate the CREST SOV, which will provide more career opportunities for U.S. mariners," said Crowley Vice President, Labor Relations, Ira Douglas. "The service operation vessel will continue our shared commitment to advancing investment in new maritime technology and vessels that provide jobs and economic security for American seafarers and the overall nation."



New Jobs for AMO as Crowley Cable Barge Enters Jones Act Service in Offshore Wind Farm Industry



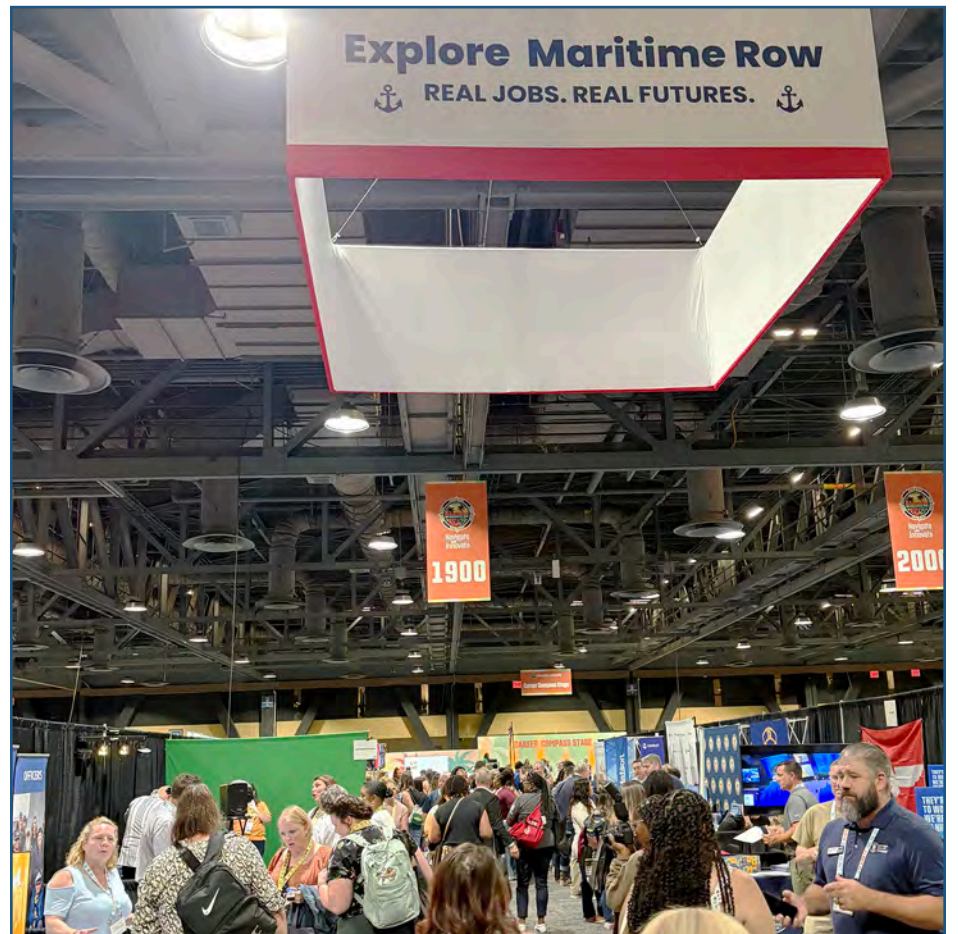
Members of American Maritime Officers have initiated operation of the first Jones Act compliant cable laying barge, MARMAC 306. The vessel is self-propelled and is operated by Crowley in the emerging U.S. offshore wind farm industry. AMO members working aboard the barge in May, here in Charleston, included Captain Francisco Souza, Captain John Mansfield, Captain John Conway, Captain Dan Keneally, Chief Engineer Ross Hilligoss, Chief Engineer Dan Beard, Chief Mate Brian Enos, Chief Mate Grayson Conner, First Assistant Engineer Adam Poliquin and First A.E. Chris Falla. **Additional Coverage on Page 3**

Pages 6-7: U.S. Merchant Mariners Honored on National Maritime Day

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AMO, STAR Center Take the Lead in Maritime Industry Participation at American School Counselor Association's Annual Conference to Build a New Generation of Mariners

The U.S. maritime industry came together en masse to educate the educators at the American School Counselor Association's annual conference in Long Beach from July 12 to 14. The three-day event saw unprecedented participation – which was organized and coordinated by American Maritime Officers and STAR Center – from maritime labor, operating companies, training institutions, maritime academies and government agencies. The singular goal was to introduce nearly 5,000 school counselors – ranging from elementary school to high school levels from across the country – to the maritime industry as a career path for their students. Representatives from more than 40 organizations and companies staffed 52 exhibit booths in Maritime Row, covering nearly every aspect of how counselors could get their students involved in the maritime industry and U.S. Merchant Marine. AMO and STAR Center also led a well-received presentation about the merits of maritime. Along with hundreds of requests for more information, several school districts have asked to set up career days to generate greater awareness about the industry.



U.S. Maritime Industry Salutes Congressman Rick Larsen

U.S. Congressman Rick Larsen (D-WA) was recognized for his strong and steadfast support of the American maritime industry with the Salute to Congress Award for 2025. The International Propeller Club presented the award May 14 during the 41st Frank Courtenay Salute to Congress dinner in Arlington, Va.

During the event, Rep. Larsen touched upon many of the significant economic and national security roles of the U.S. maritime industry and discussed key policy issues for the U.S.-flag fleet and maritime work force.

"In Washington State alone, the industry contributes \$46 billion annually to our economy, including \$14 billion in employee income, provides close to 155,000 jobs directly and indirectly – so it's very important to where I come from," he said.

"The U.S. is a maritime nation. Our marine infrastructure and our maritime workers have been neglected far too long, which is odd considering that the maritime



AMO National President Willie Barrere and Seafarers International Union Executive Vice President Augie Tellez congratulate Congressman Rick Larsen (D-WA) on his receipt of the Frank Courtenay Salute to Congress Award for 2025.

industry is responsible for moving over 90 percent of the goods into and out of the United States," he said. "There's a lot of

work to do. The foundation of that work starts with the Jones Act, in my opinion.

He continued: "The Jones Act alone

won't save the maritime industry. It's critical we reinvigorate the U.S.-flag fleet, as well, which has declined precipitously. We've paid a steep price for that race to the bottom flag-of-convenience system. So, while we need to consider a system – what free trade means – we also want to be sure we're investing in our ability to compete in that free trade system with our friends, with our allies, and investing in our own U.S.-flag fleet.

"I've seen encouraging actions from the current administration to bolster the U.S.-flag fleet with the executive order, on Capitol Hill with John Garamendi and Mark Kelly with the SHIPS Act, the work we're doing to try to get passed the Coast Guard Authorization Bill," Rep. Larsen said. "We're trying to get our work done to support you all as we move forward, including on my old committee – the Armed Services Committee – and I'm optimistic" the Maritime Security Program will be reauthorized in the upcoming NDAA.

Service of U.S.-Flagged LNG Carrier *American Energy* Celebrated with AMO and Crowley in Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico Governor Jenniffer González Colón joins crewmembers of the *American Energy*, Crowley Chairman and CEO Tom Crowley and AMO National President Willie Barrere in celebrating the service of the LNG carrier to the Commonwealth.

The following article was released by Crowley on June 19. *American Maritime Officers* represents all the licensed officers onboard the *American Energy*. Crowley, a U.S.-owned shipping and logistics company, alongside Puerto Rico Governor Jenniffer

González Colón, celebrated the successful operation of *American Energy*, during an event Wednesday, June 18 at Crowley's LNG Loading Terminal in Penuelas. *American Energy* is the first U.S.-flagged liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier to deliver U.S.-sourced LNG to Puerto Rico.



The Crowley-owned, 900-foot-long vessel began service in March. At full capacity, *American Energy* is capable of transporting up to 34.4 million gallons of LNG per voyage. Operating under a multi-year agreement with Naturgy, *American Energy* provides regular service between

the U.S. Gulf Coast and EcoElectrica's LNG facility in Penuelas, ensuring a reliable, efficient energy supply of cleaner-burning LNG to support the island's growing power demands.

American Energy — Page 8

MARMAC 306

From Page 1

American Maritime Officers members have initiated operation of the first Jones Act compliant cable-laying barge, bringing new job opportunities to the membership. The barge has been completing preparations for service in July off the coast of New York supporting a wind farm installation. The barge will serve a vital role in offshore energy projects and will be available for use in other applications and sectors that need industrial cable in near shore environments. The new 300-foot by 100-foot barge, which is self-propelled and has dynamic positioning capabilities, further solidifies AMO's involvement within the emerging offshore wind market. AMO members have access to pivotal dynamic positioning training at STAR Center. "Operating unique vessels is nothing new to AMO, and with the Crowley/Nexans

cable barge, our officers look forward to providing an important new capability for the U.S. maritime industry," said AMO National President Willie Barrere. "With the

support of our commercial partners, this vessel is another step in increasing the much-needed maritime workforce." AMO members have been assisting

with getting the barge prepared for its mission since last year. Approximately 16 AMO members will crew the vessel per shift, working two shifts per day.



AMO Members, Applicants Train at STAR Center



American Maritime Officers members participating in Advanced Shiphandling for Masters and Senior Deck Officers in June at STAR Center with Instructor Frank Brand (left) included Dmitre Dimitrov, Albert Warmbier and Russell Macomber.



AMO members participating in the MSC Small Arms Training and Qualification Course at STAR Center in June included (in no particular order) Andrew Barnes, Luke Farrell, Randy Grimes, Jared Gronhaug, Jared Francis, Cort Hansen, Anthony Larrabee Jr., Scott Lucero, Vu Nguyen, Alexander Ruddy, Jeremy Scheil, David Schumacker and Jack Stancil.

TECH Program Apprentice Engineers Train at STAR Center



Members of The Engineering Candidate Hawsepipeline Program Class 114 training at STAR Center in June included (left to right) Patrick Larkin, Ahmed Awad, Justin Jacobs, Eto-sha Chen-Lopez and Michael Waggoner.



Members of TECH Program Class 117 training at STAR Center in June included (left to right) Sokoya McDuffie, Joshua Triplett, Allison DiFilippo, Emilie Whitlow, Jesse Moses and Evan Campbell.

Current Course Schedule Available on the **STAR Center Website**



The current STAR Center course schedule is available on the STAR Center website at the address below. The STAR Center schedule will no longer be printed in the AMO newspaper. The STAR Center course schedule is also sent by email each month to AMO-contracted vessels and to AMO members and applicants at the email address each has on file with the union.

www.star-center.com/schedule.html

AMO Members and Applicants Can **Register Online** for STAR Center Courses

STAR Center is no longer accepting paper course registration applications by FAX, nor scanned paper applications by email. AMO members and applicants will need to register for courses on the STAR Center website. With a phone, scan the QR code to open a link to the online course registration form, or in the address bar of a Web browser, enter the following URL:

www.star-center.com/forms/reg.mbr.live.html



AMO Members and Applicants Are Asked to Register for Courses As Far in Advance As Possible, and To Submit a Course Application Even if the Preferred Course/Start Date Has a Wait List

AMO members and applicants are asked to submit an application for course registration as far in advance of the course's start date as possible for all courses. Applications received less than 60 days in advance of a course's start date are more difficult to accommodate. AMO members and applicants are also asked to submit an application for their preferred course and start date even if there is a wait list. STAR Center is sometimes able to accommodate those who are on a course wait list.

AMO Officers, Vessels, Contracted Companies Recognized for Safe Operations

The U.S. maritime industry publicly recognized the merchant mariners responsible for safe vessel operations at the Chamber of Shipping of America (CSA) Annual Safety Awards Luncheon held at the Hilton Riverside Hotel in New Orleans on June 17.

The event recognized 1,177 vessels with 7,693 cumulative years of accident-free operation. Seafarers and representatives from 35 companies and their subsidiaries attended the annual industry-sponsored event. AET Inc. Limited; Blessey Marine Services Inc.; Chevron Shipping; Crowley Maritime Corporation; Fairwater Tankers; Keystone Shipping; Motiva; RINA USA Inc.; and Shell sponsored the event. Eleven vessels were recognized with ship safety achievement awards for their participation in rescue and recovery operations.

In total, eight companies contracted with American Maritime Officers operating 60 vessels received Safety Awards for the

crews' efforts to keep fellow shipmates safe. Among the honorees were Crescent Towing, Crowley, E.N. Bisso and Son, Fairwater Tankers, Keystone Shipping (Key Lakes), OSG Ship Management, TOTE Ser-

vices and U.S. Marine Management, LLC.

In her opening remarks, Kathy Metcalf, CSA's president and CEO said: "CSA's members are committed to safe operations and CSA's involvement in safety is long-



Seven tankers under the Fairwater banner received Jones F. Devlin Awards from the Chamber of Shipping of America, all operated under contract with AMO.

standing with our ongoing commitment to represent the industry, domestically and internationally, on safety issues encompassing every facet of ship operations. It is only fitting that an industry so focused on safety publicly recognizes the skills and dedication of the women and men who have enabled these many years of safe operations and who are responsible for actions in keeping with the highest traditions of the sea — aid to those in peril."

CSA's awards programs are open to all companies in the industry, both CSA member companies and non-member companies. Two different awards are given at the annual Safety Awards Luncheon — the Jones F. Devlin Safety Awards for safe vessel operation, and the Ship Safety Achievement Awards. This was the fifty-seventh anniversary of both safety award programs.

The Chamber of Shipping of America represents companies that own, operate, or charter U.S. and foreign flagged oceangoing tankers, container ships, and other merchant vessels engaged in domestic and international trades along with other entities that maintain a commercial interest in the operation of such oceangoing vessels.



Captains Dan Foss and James Cunningham accept Jones F. Devlin Awards on behalf of vessels operated by Crowley during the CSA event in New Orleans.



Michelle McCoy and Robert Wattam accept a CSA Jones F. Devlin Award on behalf of TOTE Services during the CSA's Annual Safety Awards Luncheon in New Orleans.

National Maritime Day 2025 Highlights a Gesture of Leadership

By Bob Rice
National Secretary-Treasurer

Many mariners have had to stand a duty watch on a major holiday at some point in their careers.

On Christmas Day 2019, then-First Assistant Engineer Ryan Neathery was standing the duty watch on the *S/S Cape May* stationed in Norfolk, Va. It was a Wednesday, and to say nothing was going on would be a gross understatement. The ship's officers and crewmembers were long gone, spending time with their families in the local area, with some traveling home for the holiday. At coffee time in the morning, the duty phone rang. This is seldom, if ever, good news.

Neathery answered the call. The man on the other end got right to the point: "This is Maritime Administrator Admiral Mark Buzby, who am I speaking with?"

Neathery identified himself.



AMO member Chief Engineer Ryan Neathery met with Rear Adm. Mark Buzby (USN retired) in person during a National Maritime Day ceremony in Norfolk, Va. this year.

"I don't need anything in particular," Buzby said. "I just wanted to reach out to you to personally thank you for spending time away from your family in order to stand watch over the *S/S Cape May*, and also to personally wish you a Merry Christmas."

Neathery thanked the man and the call ended. This random act of kindness meant the world to Neathery.

On Thursday, May 22, 2025, National Maritime Day, Chief Engineer Ryan Neathery had the opportunity to personally meet the man who made a difference in his life on that Christmas Day. When he recounted the story to Admiral Buzby, the man beamed with pride, but he also showed humility. Buzby recounted he had received a similar call early in his career, not long after his graduation from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1979, that had a profound impact on him. And he believed in paying it forward.

National Maritime Day Observances Honor Service, Underscore Vital Roles of U.S. Merchant Mariners

On May 22, American Maritime Officers joined the U.S. maritime industry in observing National Maritime Day during events across the country, with sailing members, union officials and representatives taking part in ceremonies held in Washington, D.C.; Norfolk, Va.; Galveston, Texas; San Pedro and San Francisco, Calif.; New York; Toledo, Ohio; Bedford, Va.; and Dania Beach, Fla.

In Washington, D.C., the U.S. Department of Transportation hosted a solemn memorial ceremony recognizing the enduring contributions and sacrifices of U.S. merchant mariners. Speaking at the event, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy underscored the essential role our maritime workforce has played in America's national defense and economic strength.

"This is a celebration of how far we



have come, how much it has cost, and how much is possible," Secretary Duffy stated. "America has never won a war without our merchant mariners. We haven't won a war without being able to build ships."

He acknowledged the decline in U.S. shipbuilding and maritime capacity in recent decades and issued a call to action.

"We are at a critical moment," Duffy said. "We all have to rise to the occasion and take the partnership the President is offering us — to make shipbuilding and mariners great again in this country."

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy remarked upon the importance of the U.S. Merchant Marine during an observance of National Maritime Day in Washington, D.C.



AMO National President Willie Barrere and AMO National Assistant Vice President, Government Relations, Alaina Basciano attended the National Maritime Day observance at the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.



A wreath laying during the National Maritime Day ceremony in Norfolk, Va. honored the service and sacrifice of U.S. merchant mariners past and present.



AMO West Coast Representative Alex Butler and AMO member Connor Urbancic joined U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II during the National Maritime Day observance at the West Coast Memorial in California.



In San Francisco, the West Coast Memorial is a tribute to Army soldiers, Marine Corps service members, Navy sailors, Air Force service members and U.S. merchant mariners who met their deaths defending our country, specifically during World War II. The West Coast Memorial consists of a curved gray granite wall decorated with sculptures and engraved with names of those whose remains were never recovered or identified.

A Proclamation on National Maritime Day, 2025

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

More than 200 years ago, the American steamship *S.S. Savannah* set sail across the Atlantic, becoming the first vessel of its kind to complete the journey. That daring voyage marked the start of American maritime excellence. From that first crossing to the increasingly important shipping lanes of today, America's strength at sea has always been driven by the United States Merchant Marine and the skilled merchant mariners who support our economy and readiness in times of peace, crisis, and war.

Merchant mariners play a vital role in our national defense, standing ready to support military operations whenever they are needed. As civilian seafarers, they deliver troops, weapons, and supplies through dangerous conditions to sustain our Armed Forces in times of conflict. During World War II, more than 243,000 merchant mariners risked their lives to aid the war effort and help secure victory and freedom. Their service came at a price as these merchant mariners suffered a higher casualty rate than all branches of the United States military during the war. Their courage and heroism reflect a deep commitment to the Nation that we hold in the highest honor and shall never forget.

Beyond their role in national defense, merchant mariners help drive American economic strength. They operate the vessels that transport goods, energy, and raw materials to and from our shores, supporting global trade and connecting United States producers with international markets. Their work supports key industries across the American economy, including shipping, shipbuilding, logistics, and energy.

The United States is a proud maritime nation, and as President, I am bringing a renewed focus to reestablishing our dominance at sea. Last month, I signed an Executive Order on Restoring America's Maritime Dominance to spur investment in American shipbuilding, eliminate outdated regulations, and expand merchant mariner training and education. These reforms are critical to securing supply chains, protecting key trade routes, and countering growing threats from foreign adversaries.

Today, we celebrate the men and women of the United States Merchant Marine and all those who support our maritime industry. Their dedication upholds our national defense, fuels our economy, and continues a proud tradition that has shaped our Nation since its earliest days.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day," to commemorate the first transoceanic voyage by a steamship, in 1819 by the *S.S. Savannah*. By this resolution, the Congress has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2025, as National Maritime Day. I call upon the people of the United States to mark this observance and to display the flag of the United States at their homes and in their communities. I also request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

DONALD J. TRUMP



Members of American Maritime Officers, along with AMO Plans and STAR Center directors and staff, AMO officials and staff, and members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans, gathered for a National Maritime Day ceremony at the memorial for the crew of *El Faro* on the STAR Center campus on May 22. Speaking at the ceremony was former Dania Beach Mayor and current Commissioner A.J. Ryan IV. Delivering the benediction and blessing the wreaths was Father Sanford R. Sears, Port Chaplain — Lieutenant (USCG retired), of Seafarers' House, Port Everglades.



Members and representatives of American Maritime Officers joined many others in observing National Maritime Day during a ceremony in Norfolk, Va. Among those attending were Second Assistant Engineer Keith Neathery, Captain Marissa Strawbridge, SIU Assistant Vice President of Government Relations Sam Spain, Chief Engineer Brad Neathery, aide to Congresswoman Jen Kiggans (VA-02) Jonathan Gragnano, Chief Engineer Ryan Neathery, AMO National Secretary-Treasurer Bob Rice, MEBA Norfolk Branch Agent Chief Engineer Craig Moran, SIU Norfolk Port Agent Mario Torrey, and Doris Rice.

U.S. Coast Guard: Credit for Service on Articulated Tug/Barge Combinations

The following article dated June 26 was released by the U.S. Coast Guard.

In light of the current shortage of mariners, the Coast Guard has considered the barrier to mariner career progression presented by Title 46 CFR 11.211(d), Service on Articulated Tug Barges (ATB) and Integrated Tug Barges

(ITB). This regulation limits the crediting of sea service based on the aggregate tonnage of the ATB or ITB to a two-for-one basis up to only 50 percent of the required service.

The inability to receive sea service credit for the aggregate tonnage of the ATB or ITB limits career progression

and is unnecessarily burdensome for mariners holding unlimited tonnage endorsements.

The Coast Guard will recognize service on ATBs and ITBs, with an aggregate tonnage above 1,600 gross registered tons (GRT), day-for-day toward the required service on vessels over 1,600 GRT

when seeking a raise-of-grade for unlimited tonnage officer endorsements. This credit will only apply to those ATBs and ITBs that operate exclusively as a composite unit. This should be documented by the company on the mariner's service letter or in supplemental documentation when a certificate of discharge is used.

Mariners with pending applications who have submitted service on ATBs may need to provide additional information to verify that service on ATBs and/or ITBs was solely as a single unit to obtain this credit on their current application.

AMO Aboard Articulated Tug/Barge OSG Horizon



Members of American Maritime Officers working aboard the articulated tug/barge OSG Horizon in March, here in Philadelphia, Pa. to perform lightering operations on the Delaware River, included Captain Joe Hopkins. With him is AMO National Vice President, Inland Waters, Joe Brown.

AMO Aboard Tug Apollo



Members of American Maritime Officers working aboard the E.N. Bisso & Son harbor tug Apollo in January, here in Tampa, Fla., included Mate Kyle Kaman and Captain Blake Harris. AMO represents the mariners working aboard the Bisso owned and operated harbor assist tugs in Tampa, Port Everglades and Miami.

American Energy

Continued from Page 3

"American Energy demonstrates the power of partnership," said Tom Crowley, chairman and CEO of Crowley Corporation.

"Together, we are building upon a shared commitment to dependable, sustainable energy solutions for Puerto Rico. We are not only enhancing the resilience of the island's power infrastructure but also supporting its economic growth and ensuring long-term energy security for the communities and businesses that rely on it every day."

"The entry into service of the American Energy marks a significant step in our efforts to increase energy supply sources, marking the first time that an American-flagged tanker will transport liquefied natural gas from the mainland to Puerto Rico. This represents a major step forward in fuel supply reliability to stabilize our electric grid, which will greatly benefit our population," said Governor Jenniffer González Colón, who congratulated the crew of the American Energy, especially the Puerto Rican mariners working aboard the vessel.

"Just in time for the start of the

peak energy consumption season, this natural gas supply route from U.S. sources expands our options for stabilizing our electric grid, as we work to provide our residents and businesses with a more reliable and consistent source of power generation."

At the event, Crowley crewmembers and leaders were joined by AMO National President Willie Barrere; Josean González Febres, mayor of Peñuelas; Josue Colon, Puerto Rico energy czar and executive director of the Puerto Rico Public-Pri-

vate Partnership Authority; Mary Carmen Zapata, executive director, Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority; Norberto Negrón, executive director, Puerto Rico Ports Authority; and Carlos Ríos, deputy secretary, Puerto Rico Economic Development and Commerce Department.

American Energy builds on Crowley's 70-plus years of commitment to Puerto Rico, where Crowley also operates the full-service Isla Grande cargo terminal in San Juan, supporting its container and roll-on/roll-off vessels, including two

LNG-fueled ships and logistics services. Crowley annually delivers more than 94 million gallons of LNG through its LNG Loading Terminal in Penuelas, as well as providing ocean delivery and land transportation using ISO tank containers to meet the island's energy needs. Additionally, as part of Crowley's broader energy initiatives, the company is advancing innovative LNG microgrids that bolster energy resilience for businesses and communities, offer lower emissions and drive long-term growth.

AMO Aboard the Burns Harbor on the Great Lakes



Members of American Maritime Officers working aboard the Burns Harbor in May, here in Two Harbors, Minn., included Third Mate Byron Stembridge, Chief Engineer Kevin Olson and Captain Colin Bergel. AMO represents all licensed officers onboard the American Steamship Company vessel.

More than 1,100 Graduate State Maritime Academies, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Class of 2025

The following press release was issued by American Maritime Partnership on June 30.

The American Maritime Partnership (AMP), the voice of the domestic maritime industry, proudly congratulates the more than 1,100 graduates from America's maritime academies who make up the Class of 2025. These graduates now join the 650,000 men and women of the American maritime workforce: a vital component of U.S. national, homeland and economic security.

This new generation of mariners has chosen a life of service, supporting the movement of goods and energy along America's coastlines and inland waterways, responding to disasters at home and abroad, and bolstering military sealift capabilities in contested global waters. Their graduation comes at a pivotal moment, as the Trump Administration and bipartisan Congressional leaders are calling for renewed national commitment

to the maritime sector, prioritizing the American shipyards and the expansion of the U.S.-flag fleet.

"These men and women are entering a career rooted in service, and they do so as America rededicates itself to building more ships here at home and sailing them under Old Glory," said Jennifer Carpenter, president of the American Maritime Partnership. "From Gulf Coast shipyards to the ports of Hawaii and Alaska, a stronger American maritime means a stronger country. We are proud to stand behind these bright leaders of tomorrow as they help carry out a national mission bigger than themselves."

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy, speaking at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy commencement on June 23, underscored the environment this year's graduating class enters:

"This administration understands

that restoring maritime dominance is critical to America's national security, and to do that, our nation needs more brave men and women to sail the ships we have now, but the great ships we're going to build in the future. This mission you're all about to embark on could not be more important at this very moment when our nation stands on the precipice of potential conflict in the Middle East. Whether it's the Suez Canal or the South China Sea, there are rough waters ahead."

The 2025 graduates hail from the seven maritime academies in the United States: the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point, N.Y.), State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College (Fort Schuyler, N.Y.), California Maritime Academy (Vallejo, Calif.), Great Lakes Maritime Academy (Traverse City, Mich.), Maine Maritime Academy (Castine, Maine), Massachusetts Maritime Academy (Buzzards Bay, Mass.) and Texas

A&M Maritime Academy (Galveston, Texas).

Following graduation, many will serve aboard vessels in the domestic fleet, which includes more than 40,000 container ships, freighters, tankers, offshore supply vessels, dredges, tugboats, towboats and barges. Others will contribute their skills to U.S. shipbuilding and repair yards, helping design and construct the next generation of American vessels. Additionally, some will serve in uniform, joining the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard or other military branches.

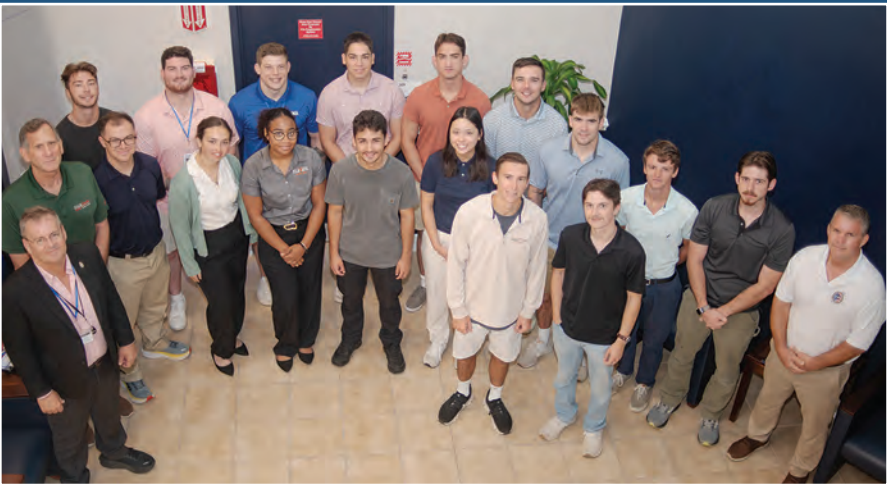
To sail as licensed merchant marine officers, graduates must pass a rigorous U.S. Coast Guard examination process, including three days of testing and mastery of complex technical knowledge. Their training combines classroom learning with hands-on experience aboard training ships like the new U.S.-built National Security Multi-Mission Vessels, or commercial vessels operating under the U.S. flag.

AMO Conducts Sea Trials of NSMV *T/S State of Maine*



American Maritime Officers members conducting the sea trials of the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel *T/S State of Maine* in June, here in Philadelphia, included (right to left) Third Mate Paulino Martinez, Jr., Captain Daniel Vich, Chief Mate John Connolly and Second Mate Bryan Ziehl. The U.S. Maritime Administration, through a partnership with TOTE Services, will deliver five new vessels to be used for training the next generation of mariners, and the ships can be activated in cases of national emergency. The *T/S State of Maine* is expected to be the third vessel delivered in the NSMV program.

Maritime Academy Graduates and Cadets Train at STAR Center



In July, AMO and STAR Center welcomed 16 recent graduates and current cadets for a Combined Basic and Advanced Low Flashpoint Fuel (IGF Code) course, held at STAR Center as part of the Maritime Academy Recruiting Assistance Program. Participants represented Maine Maritime, Massachusetts Maritime, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. AMO National President Willie Barrere and National Vice President, Deep Sea, Jeff Richards spoke with the class at STAR Center.

AMO Officers on the *Leroy A. Mendonca* Honor Juneteenth



American Maritime Officers members working aboard the LMSR *Leroy A. Mendonca* in June, here in Newport News, Va., included (above left) Chief Engineer Antoine Jennings, First Assistant Engineer Brandon Granger, Second A.E. Dan Tapley, Third A.E. Nakesha Miller, and (above right) Captain Kevin Johnson and Third Mate Derek Willis. The LMSR is managed by Ocean Duchess, Inc. in the U.S. Maritime Administration's Ready Reserve Force fleet.

Charting Her Own Course: Hulti Embarks on Maritime Career

Erin Hulti, a graduate of the California State University Maritime Academy, recently launched her career as a professional mariner as a third mate onboard the tanker *American Endurance* with Crowley Maritime.

Originally from Astoria, Ore., Hulti earned a Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation, completing her academic coursework in 2024 and her licensing requirements in 2025. She was already working aboard the *American Endurance* when she returned briefly to campus to walk in Cal Maritime's May 2025 commencement ceremony.

"It was special and gratifying to walk across the stage and shake everybody's hands," she said.

Hulti's journey to the maritime



industry was shaped by her roots and family history. Raised in the coastal town of Astoria — "surrounded by water," as she described it — she first became interested in the maritime field through a class at Clatsop Community College. Her father, Jason Hulti, a captain with Responder Marine and former member of American Maritime Officers, also played a key role in guiding her toward a life at sea.

"My dad used to work with oil-spill response crews, and I started asking him questions about the industry around

2020," she recalled. "He told me, if I was serious, I should look into maritime academies — and I never looked back."

Her hard work and commitment were recently recognized at Cal Maritime's annual awards night on May 2, where AMO West Coast Representative Captain Alex Butler presented Hulti with the American Maritime Officers Service Award for Academics and Spirit.

"Erin is a focused mariner, does a nice job and stands out," Butler said. "She cares about lots of details, and when they add up, it makes a difference. It's a pleasure to honor her dedication and achievements."

Hulti expressed her gratitude after learning of her win, saying: "It was a surprise, but I'm extremely grateful,"

she said. "I'm glad my hard work is being rewarded."

In addition to her degree and license, Hulti also earned the 2023 Thomas B. Crowley Sr. Memorial Scholarship, which recognizes cadets who demonstrate academic excellence and a strong commitment to maritime careers. During her cadet internship, she sailed with Crowley — an experience that ultimately led to her current job offer.

"It feels good that they wanted me to come back," she said.

Hulti hopes to advance her license to Chief Mate and eventually Captain. Graduate studies in management or logistics may also appear on the radar.

"I'm excited to try new things and see more destinations in the future," she said.

AMO Members and Applicants Train at STAR Center



AMO members participating in MSC Anti-Terrorism Officer training with Instructor Joe Braun (right) at STAR Center in April included Nathan Free, Darron Whitton Jr., Alan Azcona, Everett M. Hatton, Stephen Bocker, Al Murray, Scott Kreger, Chris Marcani, Ryan Arnold and Shane Morton.



American Maritime Officers members participating in Shiphandling at the Management Level in April at STAR Center with Instructor Walter Hardman (right) included Charles Zinni, Dylan Casuga and Emmanuel Zamora.

MONTHLY AMO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Regular monthly membership meetings for American Maritime Officers will be held on the first Wednesday of every month except in the months of January, June, July and September, when the membership meeting will be held on the second Wednesday. Meetings will be held at AMO National Headquarters and will begin at 1 p.m. local time. The next meetings are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

August 6, September 10, October 1

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AMO Membership, AMO Benefit Plans Lose a Leader and a Friend with Passing of Executive Director Steve Nickerson

After a long and hard-fought battle with cancer, Executive Director of the American Maritime Officers Plans Steve Nickerson passed away the morning of June 1. His beloved daughter and grandson were by his side. He was 76.

“AMO and AMO Plans have lost an icon and a leader” said AMO National President Willie Barrere. “For so many years, he was the Executive Director of AMO Plans – a trusted and valued source of information and guidance for so many AMO members, and a good friend. Steve brought benefit information and his guidance to members everywhere, on ships and at meetings, and never hesitated to pick up the phone and talk to any member about their situation and provide them with answers. He developed and mentored an incredible staff that will soldier on in his absence. His smile and his warm and engaging personality will truly be missed.”

Nickerson was hired as the AMO



Plans director of benefits in 1997 and stepped up to the role of executive director in 2002. From the outset, he modeled the practice of actively engaging with the AMO membership to ensure information was shared and answers to questions were available to sailing members and their families.

Known to many AMO members and families, Barbara Skrak was asked to serve as interim executive director of the AMO Plans by the AMO Plans Board of Trustees following Steve's passing. In the time since, she has accepted the position of executive director and will continue to work hand-in-hand with AMO Plans trustees, directors, participants and staff to carry on with the mission of the AMO Plans in the tradition Nickerson helped to build.



A memorial service attended by family and AMO Plans staff members and trustees who worked with Steve was held in July on the AMO Plans campus.

Chad J. Morin: 1973-2025

With profound sadness we share that our beloved husband, father, son and friend, Chad Joseph Morin, 51, passed away unexpectedly on February 25, 2025 at his home in Old Orchard Beach.

Chad was born on April 12, 1973, to Melvin and Florine Morin, in Biddeford, Maine. Chad loved the four seasons of Maine and found something to do in each one of them, from fishing to hunting, spending time at the family camp up north, riding dirt bikes, watching baseball games, family road trips up and down the coast, coffee rides, family barbecues, beach days or watching *Jaws* or *Master and Commander* for the 60th time. Chad cherished the times he spent with family and friends.

Chad was a proud father to Cade, Kailee, and Libby and treasured watching them grow. He was happy to brag about them any chance he got. Chad loved life and having fun. You may have heard him pretend to be a hearing impaired old man with a telemarketer, or been on the other end of one of his vise grip handshakes. You may have helped him roll tires down Pike Street or been the recipient of one of his wrestling moves.



Chad's laugh was infectious, you couldn't help but laugh along with him, even if you didn't know what he was laughing about. Chad loved the beach. His perfect day would be puttering around the house and spending the night on the beach at Bayview, watching the sunset, eating an Italian, walking on the rocks, and casting his fishing line in the water.

Chad attended St. Andres through 8th grade, graduated Biddeford High School in 1991; attended Maine Maritime Academy from 1992-1996, graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Marine Engineering. Chad began his engineering career as a 3rd engineer



on a tugboat. He quickly moved through the ranks and accepted a position as the Chief Engineer on the oil tanker, *MV Florida*, built in 2013. Between sailing on the MMA training ship *TV State of Maine*, and sailing on other ships, he was able to see a lot of the world, from Europe to Africa and the Caribbean. Chad had a love for history and enjoyed learning about the places he visited and continuing to gain more knowledge about U.S. history. He brought his boxed set of the PBS Civil War documentary on every ship rotation.


Chad loved music. If he wasn't blasting Metallica or Foster the People's Pumped Up Kicks from the shower, in his workshop, or out the windows of his truck on West Grand Avenue, he was playing his guitar, learning songs like *Jane Says* by Jane's Addiction or *Collide* by Howie Day, and getting his family to sing along with him; or making up his own songs, "I think she's with Sancho."

Besides being a talented engineer, Chad was a skilled builder. Soaking in everything he could from his first job at Spang Builders in high school, he used that knowledge to help customize the dream house he built with his wife, Tricia in 2006.



Chad's biggest love was his family. He loved his family as fiercely as they loved him. Chad will live on in the hearts of those that knew and loved him. He was taken too soon, leaving a perpetual hole in our hearts, but he will never be forgotten. Thank you to all those who were part of his life.

Chad is survived by his wife, Tricia Morin, children Cade Morin, Kailee Morin, Libby Morin, daughter-in-law Arianna Cormier and his parents, Melvin and Florine Morin; along with numerous aunts, uncles cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. Chad joins in heaven with his grandparents Silvio and Bernice Morin, Thomas and Marie-Anne Dube, his Aunt "Dot" Dorothy Dube, and his best four-legged friend, Cooper.




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