The Mission of the United Seamen's Service is to promote the welfare of American seafarers and their dependents, seafarers of all nations, US government military and civilian personnel and other persons engaged in the international maritime industry.

Seafarers on the way home to their “Ship,” USS Yokohama.

Seafarers playing volleyball, USS Diego Garcia.

The United Seamen's Service 2016 Annual Report is dedicated to the International Brotherhood of the Sea, seafarers around the world who risk their lives to move America’s trade and commerce.
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The year was 1942. Casablanca was the Oscar-winning film, Bing Crosby’s White Christmas was the top song, the Dow bottomed out at 92, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt announced a national economic policy stabilizing wages, farm prices, rents and urged rationing scarce essential commodities.

The Second World War raged in both the Atlantic and Pacific and in the midst of such historic events, United Seamen’s Service was born with the mission to provide services abroad for American seafarers and within a short time 144 global facilities were providing services to seafarers.

Now, 75 years later and playing to the technological events that have impacted shipping, ships and the role of America’s seafarers along with globalization, our agency continues in fewer locations but the services provided – over 250,000 each year – are still necessary.

It was FDR and the maritime unions who felt the urgency to provide assistance to the exhausted battle-traumatized, wounded and vulnerable merchant seafarers—strangers in unsavory or small run-down ports far from home where they would stay for weeks on end. Thus, USS was founded. Those founders would never recognize those harbors today; clean, sprawling and run by computers with some ships that if stood on their end, would exceed the Empire State Building.

Nevertheless, the USS services are still vital in six strategic locations on the globe. America’s seafarers were the first casualties of World War II. In harms way as they manned the vessels that carried supplies to U. S. troops, the U. S. War Shipping Administration recognized a need and developed the idea of USS, recommended it to FDR and on August 8, 1942 the agency opened its doors around the world.

Because of the indispensable services provided to seafarers, USS centers attracted enthusiastic support from such luminaries as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the singer Madeline Carroll, comedian George Jessel and others too numerous to mention, all generous with their invaluable time in their devotion to the agency.

The centers were a home away from home where as a safe haven they provided hearty meals, medical attention, hotel-like facilities, recreation and personal amenities among the many services that were available. Rest homes for the convoy-weary and even gift shops for the mariners wanting to bring momentos back home provided additional needed, and desired, services.
The war ended and while the needs for more than 100 centers abated, USS services focused on a changing commercial and political world. In 1950, the Korean War outbreak meant that Asian ports were busy and looking to USS for help in meeting the needs of those seafarers manning vessels carrying supplies and munitions for the military. At the same time, the Italian Government offered the agency rent-free space to open a center in Naples and USS opened seven facilities in the Middle East to serve the needs of the oil fields.

The Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS), predecessor to the Navy’s Military Sealift Command, developed a relationship with USS in 1950 and over the years has rendered invaluable assistance to our agency’s mission. USS serves all American seafarers who deliver military cargo worldwide.

In 1965, our agency opened its first center in Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam. Many of the USS staff were the last to leave Saigon in 1975, including our present Executive Director, Roger Korn. Throughout our 75 year history, USS has opened and closed centers as needed and virtually every experienced American seafarer can recall a visit to “the seaman’s center” in a harbor they have visited.

As military conflict goes on, American merchant mariners continue to work to support U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and elsewhere. The delivery of services to U.S. prepositioning crews and U.S. Fleet Sailors continues to be a priority for USS. Our centers in Diego Garcia, “a small atoll in the Indian Ocean opened in 1981”, Okinawa, Busan, and Bremerhaven work closely with military commands in these locations to meet the needs of all seafarers. Other locations are in Casablanca and Yokohama.

In 1970, USS efforts in Congress resulted in the Seamen’s Service Act signed by President Richard Nixon authorizing the Department of Defense to provide USS support “whenever the President finds it necessary in the interest of United States commitments abroad”.

USS Delegation meets with General Vincent K. Brooks, Commander in Chief, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea to discuss USS facilities in Busan, Korea.
USS is also in the book business providing reading materials to seafarers. The American Merchant Marine Library Association (AMMLA), founded in 1921, became a USS affiliate in 1973 and has endeavored to make life at sea more enriching and entertaining for the crew by installing sea-going libraries on USNS, Ready Reserve Fleet, and U.S. Flag commercial vessels worldwide.

International cooperation is a fundamental requirement of ocean shipping. Working closely with international agencies such as the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), ITF Seafarers Trust, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Committee on Seafarers’ Welfare (now called ISWAN), USS has addressed the specific needs of the international seafarer by expanding its programs and partnerships to address such concerns as seafarers’ health, hygiene, communications and seafarers’ sports. In fact, Roger Korner, served as Chairman of the ICSW for eight years. With the fast ship turnarounds of modern loading and discharge operations, the time in port is greatly reduced and some services provided by USS have changed. But, what has not changed is a familiar dining room menu, a place to engage in some competitive games, the chance to make a phone call or send an email and to be “at home” in a place of comfort and safety.

The visibility of USS domestically has become the annual Admiral of the Ocean Sea gala, (AOTOS Award Dinner) that began in 1970 and that honors U. S. maritime leaders from the private sector, unions, government and management. Considered the most prestigious award in the industry, the event attracts well over 700 people each year and serves as a reunion for an industry that is spread far and wide, a place to honor the bravery of seafarers for specific acts of heroism at sea and a significant fundraiser to support the agency’s ongoing efforts.

“A home away from home” is how Roger Korner prefers to call USS centers and as someone who has visited each location and has warmly welcomed seafarers through the doors, I would suppose he has the best view of what USS means to those we serve.

A 75th anniversary is called a diamond jubilee but the true gems are our volunteer officers, board of directors, council of trustees, the seagoing and shoreside labor unions, the companies from every corner of the industry and our hard-working staff here and abroad without whom we would not be marking this significant milestone. Our thanks to each and every one of you.

Happy 75th,

Edward A. Morgan
Seafarers play a vital role in world trade – moving cargo essential to international commerce. The tireless job they perform is important to the efficient movement of trade around the globe. Sailing from port to port, they are often faced with unfamiliar languages, different customs and the complex logistics involved in meeting basic needs. Just as they are there for us, USS is there for them – a safe haven designed with the seafarer’s needs in mind.

The dedication seafarers show in performing their jobs is the same dedication with which USS operates its 6 centers around the world. The centers’ services begin with the basics. Seafarers can get a hot meal, place phone calls, send faxes, e-mails and letters, get information on local customs or places of interest, take care of shopping needs and exchange money.

The services USS provides don’t stop there. Reaching beyond the basics to take care of every need, USS offers supportive counseling, hospital visits for families, crisis intervention, personal counseling, and advocacy for seafarer’s rights. USS even manages to throw a little fun into the mix with sports activities and parties that help seafarers relax and have a good time. With its vast array of services that extend to port workers, U.S. government workers and military personnel, USS serves not only seafarers and their families, but entire port communities.
Sports, Fitness and Recreation

United Seamen’s Service is concerned with both a seafarer’s mental and physical wellbeing. In order to maintain a positive mental attitude and keep in good physical condition it is important for a seafarer to have the opportunity to participate in sports competition, physical fitness regimens and other recreational activities. USS centers provide a wide variety of athletic and sports facilities and activities for individual participation and team competition.

At USS Bremerhaven, a popular activity during the warm weather among seafarers and locals alike is the outdoor horseshoe pitch. This activity gives visiting crews a chance to interact with the local community and enjoy a little friendly competition.

The pre-positioning ships stationed off Diego Garcia, under the command of the Military Sealift Command, spend long periods of time at anchor in the island’s lagoon. The extended stay combined with the island’s tropical climate make for an excellent opportunity for seafarers to participate in a variety of team sports. USS Diego Garcia sponsors a number of teams including softball, flag football and golf. The island’s isolated location could make for a boring and tedious tour of duty, however, the sports competitions along with a variety of other athletic, recreational and entertainment activities sponsored by USS helps seafarers and military personnel alike pass the time and stay in shape.

USS takes an active part in sports competitions at our various port locations. This year, USS Yokohama played an active role in the planning and implementation of the annual Sports Week in coordination with the Yokohama Port & Harbor Bureau and All Japan’s Seamen’s Union. An award ceremony for the winning teams was hosted by the USS center.

USS believes firmly in the motto “A fit seafarer = a safe ship”. Our centers and staff do their best to help seafarers stay physically and mentally fit through the various recreational and athletic facilities and activities available at the centers.
In the age of cargo containerization and computer technology, a seafarer’s free time while in port is limited. Mariners need easy access to recreation that offers a change of pace and an escape from the rigors of life at sea. They need to be able to relax and unwind, perhaps by taking in some local entertainment or enjoying a meal that is a change from the usual fare they get on board.

At our centers, USS recognizes the importance of meeting these needs and strives to provide a break from the mariner’s regular routine. USS Bremerhaven has developed a fine reputation for its barbecues in the garden and has weekly dinner specials throughout the year. USS Diego Garcia sponsors a variety of cultural and entertainment events for the island population; most notably, the popular ‘open mic’ night when island talent can take the stage. USS Busan has regular dinner specials. A number of centers also have Superbowl parties and gatherings for major sporting events, and special celebrations for St. Patrick’s Day, Halloween and many other occasions.

Celebrating a holiday away from home can be a depressing experience for the seafarer in a distant port. USS centers around the world do their best to bring the holiday spirit to our seafaring men and women by hosting traditional American feasts during the holidays. Especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas, a little taste of home goes a long way towards cheering up the working mariner who cannot be home on these special days. Such traditional presentations also give our local port community patrons a chance to sample American culture and cuisine.

Every May 22nd, Maritime Day is celebrated to honor the contributions of American seafarers and to remember those who died preserving our freedom and way of life. USS centers hold this day in high esteem and sponsor memorial ceremonies and receptions in recognition of the contributions of the U.S. Merchant Marine both past and present.
International Partners

International partnerships are increasingly important in order for USS to raise awareness and address welfare issues affecting today’s seagoing workforce. These collaborative partnerships bring together organizations from many regions of the world and all segments of the maritime industry, including governments, industry, labor and welfare organizations, to share experience and coordinate projects and activities that benefit seafarers.

USS partners with a number of organizations in support of seafarers’ welfare projects; including the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), the International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN), All Japan Seamen’s Union (AJSU), International Bargaining Forum (IBF), the Apostleship of the Sea, Committee Du Patronage, Port of Casablanca, Mission to Seafarers and the City of Yokohama.

Also, of special note, has been the continued support of the ITF Seafarers Trust in providing USS with financial grants for capital improvements and for the purchase of passenger vans for the transport of seafarers. Further, of particular note, this year the IBF has once again provided an operational grant of $80,000 for the support of USS Yokohama’s programs and services.
Seafarers are among the most isolated groups in the world in relation to access to medical care, and getting adequate medical care in a foreign port on short notice can be a difficult undertaking. USS staff members at our centers around the world maintain up-to-date listings of doctors, dentists and medical facilities, including a variety of specialists, as an information and referral resource for transiting seafarers. In addition, many centers enjoy special relationship with medical providers enabling them to make appointments for seafarers to be seen on short notice if necessary.

As seafarers travel the high seas and transit foreign ports, anything can occur and sometimes very troubling situations arise. Seafarers may encounter unsafe working conditions, injuries or illness, loss of pay, abandonment or even difficulties with local authorities when transiting a port. When such problems occur, seafarers can turn to United Seamen’s Service for help. In response, our Center Directors use their knowledge, experience and contacts to advise and support seafarers experiencing difficult situations.

Working closely with international agencies, such as the International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN), and, most notable, the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) and the ITF Seafarers’ Trust, USS Center Directors and local staff have come to the aid of a number of crews in need during the past year.

Through our network of centers overseas, USS does all it can to assist the seafaring workforce around the world whenever the need arises.
Communication is key to most things we do. When communication is inaccessible, it becomes a very important priority. As a seafarer enters port, one of the first things he or she frequently wishes to do is speak with family and friends. Thus, at a typical USS center, the services available include: telephone, internet access, fax service and international postal service. During the year, USS centers overseas assisted seafarers with 19,000 telecommunications and internet connections.

As the nature of international communication continues to change rapidly in the internet age, USS seeks new ways to help seafarers stay in touch. USS has worked with the International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN), ITF Seafarers Trust and other maritime organizations to identify ways to improve access to information technology for seafarers. All USS centers have internet access which allows visiting mariners the opportunity to surf the web and stay in touch with family and friends.
Transportation, Shopping and Visitors’ Information

Life at sea makes simple tasks such as purchasing souvenirs, vitamins, or a gift considerably more complicated. USS Center staff are always ready to provide visiting mariners with information about local shopping, approximate costs, exchange rates, along with transportation to the malls and advice on whether the time-tested tradition of bargaining is accepted.

In addition to providing transportation and information on local shopping areas, USS Centers offer shuttle service to and from piers to the Center.

Once seafarers arrive at USS Centers they relax and take advantage of the Center shops that offer a range of products from local art to memorabilia along with essential items. The network of USS Centers across the globe share items and resources; consequently, seafarers transitioning in a USS port find a wide range of items without leaving the USS Center compound.

The goal of the USS Center staff is to meet the needs of all sea-going patrons.
Every USS center maintains a sign-in log listing the names and nationalities of visiting seafarers. These logs are a record of our commitment to uphold the Brotherhood of the Sea which honors seafarers of all nations regardless of religion, race or nationality.

Seafarers from the following countries and territories have received service and aid from USS in 2016:

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<th>Country</th>
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<td>ALGERIA</td>
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<td>KENYA</td>
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<td>KUWAIT</td>
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## Summary of 2016 USS Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currency exchanges for seafarers</td>
<td>6,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beached seafarers assisted by USS (includes repatriation assistance)</td>
<td>124</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitalized seafarers served</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy for seafarers with consulates, local government officials, and other agencies</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other crisis intervention, counseling, information and referral and miscellaneous</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunications, telephone calls and internet access</td>
<td>19,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letters mailed</td>
<td>1,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals served</td>
<td>134,836</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration in USS centers</td>
<td>90,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship visits</td>
<td>2,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shuttle and port-wide transportation services</td>
<td>6,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shopping assistance</td>
<td>1,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library and video exchange</td>
<td>1,473</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seafarers participating in athletic events, parties, tours and planned activities</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total social services provided by USS for seafarers and their families at home</td>
<td><strong>269,929</strong></td>
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# 2016 USS Statement of Financial Position

**ASSETS**
- Cash and Cash Equivalents $246,501
- Restricted Fund Board Designated 1,449
- Accounts Receivable 198,090
- Merchandise Held for Sale at Lower of Cost or Market 112,738
- Plant Fund (Land, Buildings & Equipment) 748,514
- **Total Assets** $1,307,292

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**
- Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses $820,385
- Vacation, Repatriation and Severance 386,996
- Pension Liability due to Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. 2,470,000
- **Total Liabilities** $3,677,381
- **Net Assets (Deficit)** $(2,370,089)
- **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** $1,307,292

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**Operating Revenues and Gains**
- Contributions $164,366
- Special Events (Less direct cost) 297,700
- Sales and Services at USS Centers (Less cost of goods sold) 1,769,242
- Rental Income 86,603
- Interest and Dividends 66
- Donated Services 25,000
- Foreign Exchange Fluctuations 38,808
- Miscellaneous Revenues 73
- **Total Operating Revenues and Gains** $2,381,858

**Operating Expenses**
- Program Services $1,933,608
  - To provide health, welfare and recreational services and on-board library services to the personnel of the American Merchant Marine and to the International Seafarers of all Friendly Nations
- Program Development and Expansion 21,708
- **Total Program Services** $1,955,316
- Supporting Services
  - Management and General $459,907
  - Fund Raising 96,282
- **Total Supporting Services** $556,189
- **Total Operating Expenses** $2,511,505
- Operating Net Income (Loss) $(129,647)

**Forgiveness of Receivable due from American Merchant Marine Library Association** $(25,000)
**Change in Net Assets** $(154,647)
**Net Assets (Deficit) – Beginning of Year** $(2,215,442)
**Net Assets (Deficit) - End of Year** $(2,370,089)
Recognized as the most prestigious award in the maritime industry, the Admiral Of The Ocean Sea Award has been presented annually by United Seamen's Service for the past forty-seven years.

The AOTOS Award is given in recognition of individuals and organizations who have shown outstanding support for American seafarers and the maritime industry of the United States.

In 2016, the Admiral Of The Ocean Sea honors were awarded to three very distinguished gentlemen: Mr. Arthur E. Imperatore Sr., Founder & President, New York Waterways; Captain Donald J. Marcus, International President, International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots and Mr. Christopher J. Wiernicki, Chairman, President & CEO, American Bureau of Shipping.

The honorees are three members of the maritime industry who in their respective capacities have been guiding the way to keep the American-flag merchant marine on the high seas.

The AOTOS event was held on October 28, 2016, in the Metropolitan Ballroom of the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. The event was very well attended with well over 700 dignitaries and prominent members of the transportation industry turning out to pay tribute to the honorees.

A much anticipated segment of the AOTOS event is the Honored Seafarer awards. These awards honor mariners of vessels who, during the previous year, had exhibited exceptional bravery, superb seamanship and devotion to duty while engaged in rescue operations at sea. The Honorable Paul N. Jaenichen, Maritime Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration was joined by Mr. Christopher Thayer, Director, Contractor Operated Ships, MSC, in presenting this year’s Mariners’ plaques and rosettes to the well deserving mariners.
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Raymond Ebeling, Woodcliff Lake, NJ
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Ian Lennard, National Cargo Bureau Inc., NY, NY
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Robert Long, Long Fence Co., Capital Heights, MD
ADM James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.), The Cohen Group, Washington, DC
Gunnar Lundeberg, Sailors Union of the Pacific, San Francisco, CA
Judy Magna, The Women’s Propeller Club of the United States, Hawthorne, NJ
Mohamed Margaux, Ste DEFMAR, Casablanca, Morocco
Anil Mathur, Alaska Tanker Company, Beaverton, OR,
Richard May, Bayport, NY
Eugene F. McCormick, Kings Point, NY
James McKenna, Pacific Maritime Association, San Francisco, CA
Kevin McManagle, American Steamship Company, Williamsville, NY
General Duncan J. McNabb, USAF (Ret.), Arlington, VA
Alan Mendelsohn, Broadalbin, NY
Kathy J. Metcalf, Chamber of Shipping of America, Washington, DC
Daniel Molloy, Brooklyn, NY
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Bill Van Loo, District No. 1-PCD, MEBA, AFL-CIO, Washington, DC
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Barbara S. Yeninas, BSY Associates, Inc., Holmdel, NJ
Andrew E. Zelman, Klein Zelman Rothermel LLP, NY, NY
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USS Executive Director

CRYSTAL NI
Chief Financial Officer

RONALD J. SCHWENK
Assistant Director, Administration

DIANE SPINDLER
Administrative Assistant

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Since 1921, the American Merchant Marine Library Association (AMMLA) has supplied “seagoing libraries” to American Merchant Marines, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, and to seafarers of allied nations. As a non-profit, non-sectarian library service, AMMLA’S primary objective is to meet the educational, recreational and self-help needs of seafarers by offering a library service on a wide array of subjects.

In 2016, USS/AMMLA distributed more than 22,000 books through its USS Centers, AMMLA representatives in New York/New Jersey and Port Arthur, Texas, and to US Merchant vessels transporting supplies to U.S. Forces. The following is a list of USNS, Ready Reserve Fleet, MSC time chartered vessels and U.S.-flag vessels that received AMMLA libraries in 2016:

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**Public Law 91-603: The “Seamen’s Service Act”**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that this Act may be cited as the “Seamen’s Service Act.”

It is the purpose of this Act, by authorizing appropriate departments and agencies of the United States Government to cooperate with the United Seamen’s Service in the establishment and operation of facilities for US Merchant Seamen in foreign areas, to promote the welfare of such seamen essential to the overall interests of shipment of United States goods and supplies to such areas...


**Serving the men and women of the American Merchant Marine and Seafarers of the world**

In accordance with the “Seamen’s Service Act of 1970” (Public Law 91-603) and the “Seamen’s Welfare in Ports” Recommendations International Joint Marine Commission, Geneva, 1936.

- Help to seafarers and their families in home emergencies
- Assistance when in hospitals abroad or detained ashore
- Recreation, entertainment and club facilities ashore
- Legal aid, liaison with authorities, help with repatriation
- Postal services, international phone, fax and internet access
- Currency exchange, money orders and transfer of funds
- Souvenirs and PX articles
- Library service, in cooperation with the American Merchant Marine Library Association (AMMLA)
The American Merchant Marine Library Association distributes seagoing libraries to the officers and crews of U.S. flag ships.

An affiliate of

United Seamen’s Service

104 Broadway, Ground Floor
Jersey City, NJ  07306
75th Pearl Harbor Day: USS Trustee Aryeh Oberstein and Master Chief Ronny German, U.S. Coast Guard, placing a wreath at the Pacific National Monument, Honolulu, HI.

A midday meal at USS Casablanca.

Seafarers enjoying a game of pool, USS Bremerhaven.

Second Annual Commodore Challenge Cup “Three Chili Cook Off,” USS Diego Garcia.

Seafarers relaxing and using WiFi, USS Yokohama.
USS Activities 2016

The Honorable Paul N. Jaenichen and Mr. Christopher D. Thayer present AST 2 Jason Yelvington with the AOTOS Mariners’ Rosette.

Honored seafarers receiving line congratulates Honorees, AOTOS 2016.

Coast Guard Honor Guard, AOTOS 2016.

UNITED SEAMEN’S SERVICE

USS Activities 2016


USS Vice President James Given and his wife Diana, Catina Sicoli, and Ron Schwenk at the USS 2016 Annual Meeting.

LTG Kenneth R. Wykle, USA (Ret) greets MG Kurt J. Ryan, USA, Commander, SDCC and staff at the 2016 USS Annual Meeting.

USS Board members with Keynote Speaker, The Honorable Paul N. Jaenichen, Maritime Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration.

USS Trustees and Guests at the USS 2016 Annual Meeting.
USS Activities 2016

USS Busan Operations Manager, Mr. Kim, provides money exchange services.

A seafarer using the golf practice net, USS Okinawa.

AMMLA book delivery at USS Center in Bremerhaven.

USS Yokohama Book Night “Take one or Leave one.”
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American Merchant Marine Library Association
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FAX: (201) 369-1105
www.unitedseamensservice.org

Member of
International Labour Office Non-Governmental Organizations,
National Human Services Assembly
International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network
Global Impact, Combined Federal Campaign
(CFC Donor Number 12086)