UNITED SEAMEN’S SERVICE

More than 75 years of service to the American Merchant Marine

2018 Annual Report

AMMLÄ “Book Delivery” to prepositioned crews, USS Diego Garcia.

Currency Exchange services aboard the USNS Sacagawea (T-AKE-2), USS Busan, Korea.
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.

Baseball Competition, crew members from KDDI Ocean Link, await transportation to the game, Sports Week, USS Yokohama, Japan.

Happy Hour, USS Bremerhaven, Germany.

The United Seamen's Service 2018 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 President’s Message

“Serving a Maritime Global Community”

The original United Seamen’s Service charter issued August 8, 1942 states that we shall provide services to “seamen and other personnel of the merchant marine of the United States and of the other United Nations”.

Since our inception as a private, nonprofit, international social service agency, USS has provided vital services and programs to both American and international seafarers. Conceived as a part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s response to seafarers’ needs during World War II and authorized in Congress through the Seamen’s Service Act, USS has been recognized historically by the government for its critical role during times of both peace and war. Throughout our history, the USS mission has been to ensure that effective and innovative programs for seafarers are developed and implemented consistent with the changing environment and needs within the maritime industry. This is accomplished with the help of our Board of Directors, maritime unions, management, government and the general public.

Proactive to these challenges, USS has continued to offer programs and services that relate to the special conditions of the transient seafarer in a foreign land. Thus, every USS Center offers American and international seafarers a safe haven, hospitality, relaxation, emergency services and an opportunity to fulfill their many portside needs in a convenient and efficient manner. In 2018 alone, USS actively provided over 265,000 social services of various types for seafarers and their families. Some of our high volume of services included 17,300 international communications, 7,630 shuttle and port side transportation services and 138,000 meals served.

Further, with the country in military conflict, American merchant mariners worked to support U.S. Forces in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. The delivery of services to U.S. pre-positioning crews and U.S. fleet sailors has continued to be a priority for USS. Our centers in Diego Garcia, Okinawa, Busan and Bremerhaven work closely with military commands in these locations to meet the needs of U.S. flag pre-positioning crews. Also this year, USS has continued to meet the challenge of providing services to international seafarers from around the globe. Our Executive Director, Roger Korner, works closely with international agencies such as the International Transport Workers’ Federation Seafarers Trust (ITF), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Seafarers and Assistance Network (ISWAN) a worldwide referral network for the international seagoing workforce. Seafarers can access ISWAN to get information on a wide variety of subjects pertinent to their particular employment situation. Information on issues such as legal matters, shipboard harassment, denial of shore leave, ship abandonment, unethical pay practices and personal and family matters are but a few of the areas available to seafarers who can call ISWAN for assistance twenty-four hours a day. In many cases the call is free depending on the country where the call originates. The ISWAN website provides detailed calling information and may be found at www.seafarerhelp.org.
AMMLA, founded in 1921, has been able to keep its service orientation alive and strong as the only public library ever chartered to provide library services on American ships. Over the course of the year, the American Merchant Marine Library Association placed over 210 seagoing libraries on American flag and allied vessels in coordination with the U.S. Maritime Administration, the Military Sealift Command and U.S. Flag Operators.

As it has from the beginning, USS continues to receive its strength and guidance from the people who volunteer to serve on our Council and Board. To these people, and in particular those from the public sector, we owe a debt of gratitude. Additionally, we have been blessed by the dedication and professionalism of our employees.

The future of USS will be assured so long as we continue to remember why the organization was founded and also to recognize our contributors and supporters, both public and private, who make fulfilling our mission possible.

Edward R. Morgan
President
United Seamen’s Service Centers

Everyday, seafarers arrive in foreign ports after working strenuously at sea. They may be unfamiliar with the city; or in need of medical help and don’t speak the native language.

For these seafarers, help awaits them at the United Seamen’s Service (USS) Centers in Bremerhaven, Germany; Casablanca, Morocco; Okinawa and Yokohama, Japan; Busan, Korea; and on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean that offer a “home away from home” for all seafarers.

Our Centers have a long history in serving men and women that work on ships. USS Casablanca Center has been in operation since 1952 and Busan, Korea since 1954; Bremerhaven, Yokohama and Okinawa have been in operation since the late 1940s.

Since 1942, USS has offered recreation, communication, counseling, dining and health services along with outreach to seafarers on ships or those in hospital and detention. For more than 76 years, our staff has recognized that there is nothing like a nourishing meal, a place for camaraderie and a “home away from home” when one is lonely or in need.

USS Centers welcome all seafarers along with U.S. Service personnel transiting and stationed in ports around the world, especially fleet sailors. Center staff offers a listening ear, guidance and information and essential contacts for medical referrals, if needed. Outreach programs to ships, hospitals and detention centers bring the USS services to seafarers that are unable to visit the centers.

Our open-door approach addresses the concerns of entire port communities and promotes respect and understanding for seafarers throughout the world.
During a seafarer’s stay ashore, the opportunity to have fun and enjoyment is essential to preserving a positive mental wellbeing. USS recognizes the importance of free time for visiting mariners and our staff does their best to accommodate. At times, visiting mariners can even participate in a special event that reflects the local culture.

Special events organized at USS centers include dinners to celebrate typical American or local holidays as well as special theme parties. Traditional holiday celebrations are particularly appreciated by visiting mariners who are far away from their family and friends at these special times of the year. In Diego Garcia, a Christmas holiday buffet and celebration for New Year’s Eve was provided for the increased number of seafarers on the island at the time. A number of centers also organized special Thanksgiving dinners.

USS Bremerhaven had a Mexican night with exotic food selections from that country along with a matching atmosphere. USS Diego Garcia helped to plan and host a Mardi Gras event for the island community that included special foods enjoyed during this popular festival.

Parties are often organized at USS centers to provide entertainment and fun for visiting mariners. Almost all centers organize Super Bowl parties that attract a lot of seafarers interested in the camaraderie of watching the game together as well as enjoying the special refreshments.

The menus at USS centers feature local specialties, such as kimchee or sushi, as well as familiar steaks and sandwiches. Thanksgiving and Christmas are celebrated with traditional holiday meals.

Maritime Day is an event celebrated each year by mariners around the world, and all USS centers organize special programs in honor of its recognition. It is a time for reflecting and remembering those who made the supreme sacrifice while at sea. The day is marked with a solemn wreath laying ceremony followed by a reception.

When visiting any of the USS centers, seafarers are given many options to choose to make their stay in port as enjoyable as possible. An extra effort is made by all members of the USS family to provide a fun filled time for mariners while in port.
Sports, Fitness and Recreation

USS recognizes the importance of both physical and mental fitness to the seafaring way of life. A fit seafarer is able to withstand the rigors of life at sea, avoid illness and stay focused and alert which helps prevent shipboard accidents.

Participation in sports, athletics and recreational activities is the key to maintaining good health. USS is proactive in fostering the participation of seafarers in activities which will promote both physical and mental fitness as well as relaxation and enjoyment, and USS centers around the world offer a wide variety of activities to this end.

Patrons of USS Bremerhaven look forward to the coming of spring when the horseshoe pitch opens. Friendly competition between seafarers and local residents is a great way to stretch the muscles and meet new friends. USS Casablanca hosts regular billiard competitions and seafarers, many of whom shoot a fair stick, are always in demand to join the local teams. USS Diego Garcia sponsors seafaring teams in softball and golf that have historically been strong contenders in the island leagues.

For the past 50 years in Yokohama, Japan, the USS Center has sponsored Sports Week every July in cooperation with the Yokohama Port & Harbor Bureau, the International Christian Maritime Association and the All Japan’s Seamen’s Union. Held on the USS Yokohama Center’s multifunction court, this event allowed nearly 94 seafarers to participate in billiards, soccer, basketball, darts, table tennis and more. At the conclusion of the week, USS hosts an awards celebration for the winning teams.

USS centers around the world continue to carry out the agency’s commitment to the welfare of seafarers by offering a wide variety of athletic and recreational activities in order to promote the mental and physical fitness of the international seagoing workforce.
Transportation, Shopping and Visitors’ Information

For merchant mariners, traveling the world from port to port can be both exhilarating and exhausting. Meeting basic needs can become a challenge in strange and unfamiliar locations, where seafarers today often have just a few hours on shore. To help them meet the challenge, USS provides many valuable services that make their tasks easier during their short stay in port.

When ships arrive in port, a USS center director visits the crew to provide information on local customs, attractions and services that USS offers. Shuttle service from the ship to the USS center gives seafarers a convenient alternative to expensive taxi services. Once in a USS center, seafarers can exchange currency, mail letters, send e-mail, get maps, purchase comfort items at the gift shop, and arrange for shopping assistance.

Center personnel also handle special requests, such as locating English-speaking doctors or searching for unique souvenirs. Whatever the need, USS is there to welcome seafarers. As one seafarer wrote following a visit to USS Casablanca, “As a former US Marine, I understand how important it is for a seafarer to have a safe haven where he or she can relax during brief in-port liberty opportunities, and in this regard, USS Casablanca exceeds all expectations.”
International Communications

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 over 17,000 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.

USS has always been dedicated to providing the latest technology to enable seafarers to stay in touch with loved ones and to stay informed about the world around them.
The maritime industry personifies the globalization phenomenon. Today, it is not uncommon for ships transiting in ports to sail under the flag of one country while being manned by officers from a second country and crewmembers from another country.

To meet the needs and concerns of seafarers in this multi-cultural environment, United Seamen’s Service has partnered with the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), ITF Seafarers’ Trust, the International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN), All Japan Seamen’s Union (AJSU), and the International Bargaining Forum (IBF).

This year, of particular importance was a grant from the ITF Seafarers Trust which allowed USS to maintain its programs and services in the port of Naha, Okinawa, Japan. Also, this year, under the sponsorships of AJSU, the IBF provided an operational grant of $80,000 which allowed USS to maintain its programs and services in the port of Yokohama.
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 a 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.
Communities Served by United Seamen’s Service in 2018

ALABAMA
Birmingham
Huntsville
Montgomery
Mobile

ALASKA
Anchorage
Valdez

ARIZONA
Phoenix
Tucson

ARKANSAS
Fayetteville
Little Rock

CALIFORNIA
Alameda
Auburn
Berkeley
Fresno
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Newport
Oakland
Riverside
San Bernardino
San Diego
San Francisco
Santa Barbara
Ventura

COLORADO
Boulder
Colorado Springs
Denver

CONNECTICUT
Bridgeport
Stamford

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Washington D.C.

FLORIDA
Ft. Meyers
Jacksonville
Miami
Orlando
Panama City
Pensacola
Tampa

GEORGIA
Atlanta
Augusta
Decatur
Macon

HAWAII
Hilo
Honolulu
Kailua
Pearl City
Waipahu

IDAHO
Boise
Twin Falls

ILLINOIS
Champaign
Chicago
Columbus
Decatur

INDIANA
Fort Wayne
Indianapolis
South Bend

IOWA
Des Moines
Fort Dodge
Ionia

KANSAS
Kansas City
Lawrence
Wichita

KENTUCKY
Lexington
Louisville

LOUISIANA
Baton Rouge
Gulfport
Lake Charles
New Orleans

MAINE
Bangor
Lewiston
Portland

MARYLAND
Baltimore
Bowie
Gaithersburg
Woodlawn

MASSACHUSETTS
Andover
Boston
Dover
Gloucester
New Bedford
Quincy
Watertown

MICHIGAN
Detroit
Lansing
Sault Ste. Marie

MINNESOTA
Duluth
Minneapolis
St. Paul

MISSISSIPPI
Biloxi
Jackson

MISSOURI
Kansas City
Independence
St. Louis

MONTANA
Billings
Butte
Edwards

NEBRASKA
Omaha

NEVADA
Baker
Carson City
Las Vegas
Reno

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Concord
Portsmouth

NEW JERSEY
Bayonne
Jersey City
Newark
Paterson
Trenton

NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque
Tularosa

NEW YORK
Albany
Brooklyn
Buffalo
Ithaca
Kings Point
New York City
Syracuse
Yonkers

NORTH CAROLINA
Burlington
Charlotte
Wilmington

OHIO
Akron
Cincinnati
Cleveland
Toledo

NORTH DAKOTA
Grand Forks

OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma City
Tulsa

OREGON
Eugene
Portland

PENNSYLVANIA
Allentown
Erie

PUERTO RICO

RHODE ISLAND
Providence
Newport

SOUTH CAROLINA
Charleston
Columbia
Greenville

SOUTH DAKOTA
Rapid City

TENNESSEE
Memphis
Nashville

TEXAS
Beaumont
Brownsville
Corpus Christi
Dallas
Ft. Worth
Galveston
Port Arthur

VERMONT
Bristol

WASHINGTON
Arlington
Olympia
Seattle
Spokane
Sumner
Tacoma
Vancouver
Walla Walla

WEST VIRGINIA
Charleston

WISCONSIN
Green Bay
Milwaukee
Racine
Superior

WYOMING
Cheyenne
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 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALGERIA</td>
<td>MALAYSIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGENTINA</td>
<td>MALTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>MARSHALL ISLANDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANGLADESH</td>
<td>MAURITIUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
<td>MEXICO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>MOROCCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILE</td>
<td>MYANMAR (BURMA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINA</td>
<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLUMBIA</td>
<td>NEW ZEALAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROATA</td>
<td>NIGERIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYPRUS</td>
<td>NORWAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CZECH REPUBLIC</td>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>PANAMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</td>
<td>POLAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>PORTUGAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLAND</td>
<td>PUERTO RICO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESTONIA</td>
<td>REPUBLIC of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINLAND</td>
<td>PHILIPPINES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANCE</td>
<td>RUSSIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGIA</td>
<td>SENEGAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMANY</td>
<td>SINGAPORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREECE</td>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>SOUTH KOREA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>SPAIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALY</td>
<td>TAIWAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISREAL</td>
<td>THAILAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAMAICA</td>
<td>TRINIDAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAPAN</td>
<td>TURKEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENYA</td>
<td>UKRAINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATVIA</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBERIA</td>
<td>VIETNAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITHUANIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Summary of 2018 USS Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currency exchanges for seafarers</td>
<td>5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beached seafarers assisted by USS (includes repatriation assistance)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalized seafarers served</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy for seafarers with consulates, local government officials, and other agencies</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other crisis intervention, counseling, information and referral and miscellaneous</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunications, telephone calls and internet access</td>
<td>17,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters mailed</td>
<td>1,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals served</td>
<td>138,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration in USS centers</td>
<td>86,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship visits</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuttle and port-wide transportation services</td>
<td>7,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping assistance</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library and video exchange</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seafarers participating in athletic events, parties, tours and planned activities</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total social services provided by USS for seafarers and their families at home</strong></td>
<td><strong>265,843</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2018 USS Statement of Financial Position

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$174,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Fund Board Designated</td>
<td>1,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>152,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise Held for Sale at Lower of Cost or Market</td>
<td>109,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Fund (Land, Buildings &amp; Equipment)</td>
<td>537,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$975,101</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$777,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation, Repatriation and Severance</td>
<td>350,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Liability due to Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.</td>
<td>2,470,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,597,393</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets (Deficit)</td>
<td>(2,622,292)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$975,101</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### Operating Revenues and Gains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$303,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events (Less direct cost)</td>
<td>257,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and Services at USS Centers (Less cost of goods sold)</td>
<td>1,730,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>21,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Services</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Exchange Fluctuations</td>
<td>38,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenues and Gains</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,366,830</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OPERATING EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$1,795,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Development and Expansion</td>
<td>21,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,816,333</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$456,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
<td>93,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$549,921</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,366,254</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Net Income (Loss)</td>
<td>$576</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Forgiveness of Receivable due from American Merchant Marine Library Association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>($24,424)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets (Deficit) – Beginning of Year</strong></td>
<td>($2,597,868)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets (Deficit) - End of Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>($2,622,292)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 fifty 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 2018, the Admiral of The Ocean Sea honors were awarded to three very distinguished gentlemen: Mr. Salvador “Tony” Bruno, President and CEO of Hapag-Lloyd, USA, LLC, Mr. Paul Doell, National President of American Maritime Officers and Mr. Raymond F. Fitzgerald, Chairman of the ARC Group. 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 November 2, 2018 in the Metropolitan Ballroom of the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. The event was very well attended with nearly one thousand 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 Mark H. Buzby, USN (Ret), Maritime Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration was joined by Rear Admiral Dee L. Mewbourne, USN, Military Sealift Command, in presenting this year’s Mariners’ plaques and rosettes to the well deserving mariners.
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Administrative Assistant

104 Broadway, Ground Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
TEL: (201) 369-1100
FAX: (201) 369-1105
Website: www.unitedseamensservice.org
Email: ussammla@ix.netcom.com
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USS International Centers and AMMLA Representatives

Bremerhaven, Germany
Walter Christiansen,
USS Center Director
18 Fritz-Reuterstrasse
Bremerhaven, Germany 27576
Tel: 011-49-471-55055
ussbhvndirector@gmail.com

Casablanca, Morocco
Abdelhak Lazrak,
USS Center Director
118 Blvd. Moulay Abderrahmane
Casablanca, Morocco 01
Tel: 011-212-522-309950
seamensclubcasa@gmail.com

Diego Garcia, Indian Ocean
Michael “Mickey” Spillane,
USS Center Director
Eclipse Bay
Tel: 011-246-370-2878
ussdg@suremail.io

Okinawa, Japan
Donald L. Lemieux,
USS Center Director
Sumiyoshi Cho, 1-Chome 142-7
Naha City
Okinawa, Japan 901-0141
Tel: 011-81-988-58-0616
ussokinawadirector2@gmail.com

Busan, Korea (Pier #3)
Donald L. Lemieux,
USS Center Director
Mr. Pyong – Kun Kim,
USS Operations Manager
#1185-8 Choryang 5 Dong
Dong Ku, Pusan 600
Tel: 011-82-51-462-8029
usspusandirector@gmail.com
ussbusanmanager@gmail.com

Busan, Korea (Annex) Pier #8
Donald L. Lemieux,
USS Center Director
Mr. Pyong – Kun Kim,
USS Operations Manager
99 Gamman 1 Dong
Nam Gu, Republic of Korea
Tel: 011-82-51-646-1993
usspusandirector@gmail.com
ussbusanmanager@gmail.com

Yokohama, Japan
Taro Yoshino,
USS Center Director
Jack Spiwak,
USS Assistant Director
No. 3 Honmoku-Futo,
Yokohama, Japan 231-91
Tel: 011-81-45-623-2231
ussyokohama@gol.com
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 2018, USS/AMMLA distributed more than 19,000 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 2018:

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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

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Seafarers logging in, USS Bremerhaven, Germany.

USNS Guam (HST 1) Christening Reception, USS Okinawa, Japan.

Port Community members enjoy their ice cream sundaes, USS Bremerhaven, Germany.

Commodores Cup Challenge Cup event winners, USS Diego Garcia.

Sunday brunch in the garden, USS Casablanca, Morocco.

AOTOS 2018 Dais.


AOTOS 2018 Receiving Line: Labor and military leaders line up to congratulate heroic seafarers.

Rear Admiral Dee L. Mewbourne, USN, presents the AOTOS Special Recognition Plaque to the Captain and crew of the USNS Mercy T-AH 19.
2018 Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker, Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, USN (Ret.), U.S. Maritime Administrator, at the 75th Annual Council of Trustees Meeting.

USS 75th Annual Meeting: (left to right) Roger Korner, USS Executive Director, Captain Yoshihiro Shimmi (guest), USS Treasurer, Philip W.J. Fisher, Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, USN (Ret.), U.S. Maritime Administrator and Ron Schwenk, USS Assistant Director, Administration.
2019 Maritime Day Reception, USS Regional Director, Gary Johnson, and Manager, Mr. Pyong – Kun Kim, greet arriving guests, USS Busan, Korea.

Christening of the USNS Guam (HST 1), 27 April 2019 – Naha Military Port, Okinawa, Japan.

Horseshoes Match Game, USS Bremerhaven, Germany.

Seafarers enjoying a game of pool, USS Yokohama, Japan.

In Appreciation, Rear Admiral Dee L Mewbourne, COMSC, and Mr. Michael C. Morris, Director, Total Force Management, MSC, present MSC’s Command Plaque to USS Assistant Director, Jack Spiwak for USS Yokohama’s 72 years of service to seafarers.
Opening Day for Kickball, 4th Annual Commodores Cup Challenge, USS Diego Garcia.

The final night for Eight Ball Elimination Matches, Sports Week, USS Yokohama, Japan.