



Albany Maritime Ministry

Welcoming seafarers along the Hudson River in New York's Capital District

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Summer Newsletter

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Thanks for Your Support

We give thanks for the many people who prayed and contributed to Albany Maritime Ministry (AMM) in recognition of Seafarer Sunday this past May 17th. This support goes a long way in assisting seafarers who dock at our ports.

Honoring the Stellamare Deceased

The Stellamare memorial monument has been moved to the outside of the Seafarer Center, and a new, lighted flag pole has been raised. The monument was first erected at the port in 2006, before the center was built. Moving it closer to the center puts it under the wing of our spiritual care.

The monument honors three deceased crew members who lost their lives aboard ship in 2003, when the *M/V Stellamare* capsized in the Hudson River while the crew was trying to load a 308-ton General Electric generator at the Federal Marine Terminal.

We thank the people at the Port of Albany for caring for the monument during the months of reconstruction.



Memorial monument bearing the names of the Russian seafarers who died on December 9, 2003

Highlights:

- ✕ Thanks for your support
- ✕ Honoring the Stellamare deceased
- ✕ \$5000 Cargill donation
- ✕ Thrivent barbecue for AMM
- ✕ Port Industry Day
- ✕ National day for merchant marines
- ✕ Merchant crews rescue migrants at their own peril...
- ✕ New mobile site for smartphones
- ✕ Call for testers who like lattes



Stellamare memorial monument in its new location outside the Seafarer Center

\$5000 Cargill Donation

We are pleased to announce the donation of \$5000 from Cargill, which has operations at the Port of Albany. Thanks go to Mr. Robert Racek, Plant Superintendent, for helping to make this donation a reality. It will significantly help us upgrade our technology and services.

Cargill is an American, privately-held corporation that provides food, agriculture, financial and industrial products and services to the world. It is based in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Thrivent Barbeque for AMM

Attendees at the Thrivent Financial® barbecue on Sunday, July 19th, have been asked to make a direct contribution to AMM. We thank the Lutheran Cluster congregations of Albany and Rensselaer Counties for making this happen.

Thrivent is a non-profit, fraternal benefit society headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It has offices nationwide.

Port Industry Day

This past May 21st, the Port of Albany celebrated its second annual Port Industry Day. The event showcased promising growth in the Capital District's port shipping business. General Manager, Richard Hendrick, outlined the area's recent activities, including the arrival of container service.

Container service is expected to play a significant role in port growth. This growth is part of the expected increase in container traffic along the East coast after the enlarged Panama Canal opens to container traffic from Asia in 2016. As increased trucking activity fills New York City port roadways, more loaded barges are expected to bring containers to the Port of Albany.

The Port of Albany is prepared to expedite container trucking by allowing trucks to enter and leave the port in as little as 45 minutes. Some containers may be trucked to the Great Lakes for shipping elsewhere.

To meet the expected growth, Governor Andrew Cuomo has included fifteen million dollars in the state budget for improvements in Port of Albany.

Albany Maritime Ministry was included in the many displays of services within the Port of Albany. We expect that the need for our services will grow with the expected increase in port activity.

National Day for Merchant Marines

The United States has set aside May 22 as a day to honor the merchant marines who toil at sea to boost the U.S. economy and have fought for American liberties. President Barack Obama praised over 200 years of merchant marine activity in America in his proclamation of National Maritime Marine Day.

The day traces its roots to 1933, when President Franklin Roosevelt gained Congressional support to set aside May 22 as National Maritime Day in honor of American maritime ventures. The date was chosen to coincide with the departure of the steamship *SS Savannah* from its home port in Savannah, Georgia, going to Liverpool, England. According to the United States Marine Administration, “[The ship] was an impressive achievement, one that signaled the beginning of the era of steam, and American technological leadership.”

Around ninety percent of global commerce take place by sea, and the United States is one of the largest importers and exporters of goods. It is positioned to become an even larger maritime power when the expanded Panama Canal opens in 2016.

Let us pray that National Maritime Marine Day will truly remind us to honor the men and women who have labored on behalf of American maritime ventures.

Merchant Crews Rescue Migrants at Their Own Peril amid European Slack

We commend the merchant crews involved in the recent large-scale rescue of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. They have filled a large gap created by a weak European response to this unprecedented humanitarian crisis—and despite the fact that they are ill-equipped for large-scale emergency rescue and its long-term effects.

The crisis is being fueled by armed conflicts and poverty, mostly in Africa, which have driven multitudes into unseaworthy smuggler’s boats in an attempt to find sanctuary in Europe. During the last seventeen months, over 5000 migrants have died while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. This year, more than 114,000 migrants have been rescued and approximately 2,600 have died or are missing, according to the International Organization for Migration.

European Union governments are relying on the kindness and legal obligations of merchant seafarers to cope with this tragedy, instead of committing sufficient resources to this tragedy. In 2014, 800 merchant ships rescued 40,000 migrants. The crews are recovering bodies and seriously ill or injured men, women and children. Their own mental and physical health is constantly in peril, and no consideration is given to the counseling and medical care they may need alongside the migrants whom they rescue.

Seafarers are no substitute for professionally trained search-and-rescue personnel. They must not be used by European Union governments as an expedient to ignore this crisis at sea, and in the lands to their south which are being destroyed by violence.

New Mobile Site for Smartphones

Now that over 50% of Internet users have migrated to smartphones, Albany Maritime Ministry recognizes the need for a secondary website for smaller viewports (screen widths). We are currently building a mobile site with new interactive features that will automatically appear when mobile users go to albanymm.us. The site will optimize mobile connections for our community with smartphones.



Our original, full site will continue to serve personal computers and tablets.

Call for Testers Who Like Lattes

We need a few good folks to test the new mobile site before it launches. This test is important to ensure that the site will be truly helpful on any smartphone, no matter what the make or model.

If you use a smartphone with a viewport (width) of 4.8 inches or narrower, please email our webmaster at: [webmaster \[at\] albanymm.us](mailto:webmaster@albanymm.us), offering to be a tester and asking any questions you may have. Include the full name of your device, for example: Apple iPhone 3G or Samsung Galaxy S5. In about a week, you will be sent the location of the new site and a simple questionnaire of about three questions. You will have about three weeks to complete the test, but be advised that:

The first three people to submit a completed questionnaire will receive a \$5 coupon for Dunkin' Donuts®.

We thank you in advance for your participation.

*May you be blessed this summer with full sails, gentle
waters, good food, people to love, and most of all,
the peace of Christ in your heart!*

