



**CHAMBER OF SHIPPING OF AMERICA**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

**For Release  
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**NEW ORLEANS, LA...**The U.S. maritime industry publicly recognized the merchant mariners responsible for safe ship operations at the Annual Safety Awards Luncheon held at the Hilton Riverside Hotel on June 18, 2019. Well over **180** people, representing **81** companies and their subsidiaries attended the annual industry-sponsored event where **1,749** vessels with **10,999** cumulative years of accident free operation received awards.

Since 1958, the Chamber of Shipping of America (CSA) has also sponsored the Safety Achievement Award program which recognizes outstanding feats of safety that contribute to saving a life, a ship or other property. This was the Sixtieth Anniversary of the program.

In opening remarks, Kathy Metcalf, CSA President said: "CSA's members are committed to safe operations and CSA's involvement in safety is longstanding 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."

Four ships received Citations of Merit. The **M/V EDGAR B. SPEER** of member company Keystone Shipping Co. won for their actions to a U.S. Coast Guard distress call on August 25, 2018. Despite stiff winds, the crew expertly navigated the 100-foot bulker to a sinking boat to render assistance. The fast rescue boat was launched and the crew pulled three survivors to safety moments before their boat sank. The **M/V JOSEPH MERRICK JONES** of Canal Barge Company, Inc. for their seamanship and persistence September 1, 2018 which would soon be coined the "Rescue on the River" by media outlets. The vessel responded immediately to rescue six passengers aboard a sinking pleasure boat in the Lower Mississippi River. The crew fought through the darkness and current to rescue all survivors then tow the boat to shore before it sink and obstructed the river. The **M/V STENA CRYSTAL SKY** for their actions on January 18, 2018. The crew diverted 280 miles to rescue two sailors whose boat was adrift in heavy seas. On scene, the crew launched and diligently navigated their rescue boat through high winds and heavy seas to save the sailors. The **SEASPAN ZAMBEZI** of Seaspan Corporation on March 6, 2018, the crew diverted to assist with the rescue of 27 crew members on a containership burning out of control. Once on scene, the crew launched a lifeboat and circled the burning vessel throughout the night, dodging debris in the dark while searching for four of the containership's missing crew. Letters of Commendation were awarded to the **M/V EXPRESS BERLIN, M/V STAR GRAIN, M/V INDIGO LAKE, M/V NORDIC WOLVERINE, M/V ZIM NINGBO, M/V DESERT SPRING, M/V DOLFINJNGRACHT** and **M/V OMIRSO L.**

The Chamber of Shipping of America represents U.S. based companies that own, operate or charter oceangoing tankers, container ships, and other merchant vessels engaged in both the domestic and international trades and other entities that maintain a commercial interest in the operation of such oceangoing vessels. Membership inquiries may be directed to the President of CSA, Kathy Metcalf at [kmetcalf@knowships.org](mailto:kmetcalf@knowships.org)

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