



Congressman
C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Maryland 2nd Congressional District

Press Release

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**Statement from Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
In Honor of National Maritime Day
May 22, 2007**

It is an honor to join Members of Congress, the President, and others across the country to honor America's Merchant Mariners on May 22, 2007, National Maritime Day. The maritime industry is the backbone of our nation and our economy. From the cars we drive to the paper we write on to the sugar we put in our coffee, Merchant Mariners make sure cargo arrives safely and securely at America's ports.

The Port of Baltimore, located in Maryland's 2nd Congressional District, is one of America's busiest deepwater ports. It is one of the largest economic engines in Maryland. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Port Security Caucus and a Member of the Intelligence Committee, I work hard to protect the port while also keeping commerce moving. America's Merchant Mariners help us do this. They are our partners on the water. They protect the shipping of imports and exports, provide an extra set of eyes for national security, and deliver vital cargo during relief operations. In times of war, America's Merchant Mariners make sure our Armed Forces have the equipment and supplies they need.

Without the hard work and dedication of America's Merchant Mariners, the Port of Baltimore and the State of Maryland would not maintain the economic prosperity and success we enjoy today. I look forward to steaming ahead together with the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association for Maryland and our nation.

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