



News Release

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Seafarer's Friend Presents First Annual Chaplains' Award

New England-based Maritime Ministry Establishes Award to Honor Compassion

CHELSEA, Mass. – The New England-based maritime ministry, Seafarer's Friend, recently presented Ron Strauss a ship loading and operations foreman at Schnitzer Steel Industries of Everett, with its first Annual Chaplains' Award. The award was created to acknowledge those individuals who have made a significant and positive impact on the well-being of more than 13,000 mariners visiting New England ports each year.

Strauss was recognized for his efforts to improve a restrictive shore leave policy for visiting seafarers at the Everett terminal. Shore leave is essential to a mariner's mental, emotional, and overall happiness after being at sea for months at a time. Strauss exemplifies a genuine compassion for these seafarers, and understands their loneliness. Since the new policy was implemented nearly a year ago, it has enhanced the experience of many seafarers visiting the Everett terminal.

“Amidst the thousands of working seafarers visiting our ports each year, there is always an unsung hero who goes above and beyond the call of duty to provide comfort and understanding to those so far away from home. This unsung hero is the crux of our Chaplains' Award,” said Rev. J. Loring Carpenter, Executive Director of Seafarer's Friend. “Our hero could be a person of authority or just someone working behind the scenes that makes even the slightest difference to a single seafarer, or to the many. Whatever the kind gesture, it reflects their act of hospitality as a genuine attitude of the heart.”

Strauss resides in Warwick, Rhode Island with his wife Jean.

Seafarer's Friend is a nonprofit organization based in Chelsea, Mass., whose mission is to offer hospitality, friendship, comfort and support to visiting mariners. Seafarer's Friend works to ensure those seafarers seeking shore leave are afforded the opportunity. Each year chaplains and volunteers across New England ports touch the lives of thousands who spend their lives at sea.

Photo Caption: (From left to Right) Rev. Loring Carpenter, Seafarer's Mission Executive Director presenting Chaplains' Award to Ron Strauss.

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Seafarer's Friend operates in the ports of Boston, Portland, ME, Portsmouth, NH, and is supported by hundreds of congregations and individuals throughout New England. For more information and opportunities to volunteer and become involved in this world-class mission, call 617.889.3222 or check the web site currently in construction, www.seafarersfriend.org.