

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE**  
**U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY BOARD OF VISITORS**  
**U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N.Y., Melville Hall**  
**February 3, 2020**

**ATTENDEES.**

BOARD OF VISITORS (BOV) MEMBERS: Representative Tom Suozzi (D-NY), Representative Peter King (R-NY), Representative Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ), Representative Jack Bergman (R-MI), RADM Meredith Austin (delegate for VADM Daniel B. Abel), VADM Johnny B. Wolfe. Jr., Mr. Michael Morris (delegate for RADM Michael Wettlaufer), Ms. Jennifer Boykin, Mr. Kevin Walsh, Lt. Col. Robert S. Volkert. Not in attendance: Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS), Representative Adam Smith (D-WA), Representative Max Rose (D-NY), Mr. Stephen Carmel, Dr. Henry S. Marcus

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION (MARAD) OFFICIALS: Mark H. Buzby, RADM, USN (Ret) Maritime Administrator, Mr. Randon Lane, Director of Communications, Maritime Administration, Mr. Cameron Humphrey, Director of Congressional Affairs, Maritime Administration.

USMMA STAFF and FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES: Joachim “Jack” Buono, RADM, U.S. Maritime Service (USMS), Superintendent, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA or Academy); Susan Dunlap, RDML, USMS, Deputy Superintendent, USMMA; John Ballard, PhD., USMMA Academic Dean and Provost; Mikel Stroud, Captain, USMS, USMMA Commandant of Midshipmen; Mr. George Rhynedance, Director of External and Congressional Affairs, USMMA, and Designated Federal Officer for the BoV; Mr. Kristofer Schnatz, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, USMMA; CDR Andrew McCarthy, USMS, Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen, USMMA; LCDR Keith Watson, USMS, Acting Director of Admissions, USMMA; Mr. Richard Cain, Director of Waterfront Activities, USMMA; Mr. David Socolof, Assistant Chief Financial Officer for Academy Operations, USMMA; Mr. Cicel Anderson, Director, Human Resources, USMMA; CAPT Ted Dogonniuck, USMS, Director, Office of Capital Improvement, USMMA; Dr. Lori Townsend, Director of Institutional Assessment, USMMA; Ms. Kelly Butruch, Risk Management Officer, USMMA; Mr. Eric Alleyne, Director of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, USMMA; CAPT Gene Albert, USMS, Director Professional Development and Career Services and Shipboard Training, USMMA; Mr. Jeffery Thomas, Public Safety Officer, USMMA; Mr. Rick Sager, Health System Administrator, USMMA, Midshipman First Class Kyleigh Kappas, Commander, Regiment of Midshipmen, USMMA; Dr. Ping Furlan, Ph.D., Professor, Chemistry, Math and Science, USMMA; CAPT Cynthia Robson, USMS, President of the Faculty Forum, USMMA.

## PURPOSE:

As required by law, the BOV conducted one of three annual meetings on February 3, 2020. The meeting was held in Melville Hall on the USMMA campus. The meeting introduced the newly-appointed members of the Board of Visitors to the Academy faculty and staff; and allowed for status updates on the State of the Academy, as well as the Academy Master and Strategic plans.

**ADMINISTRATIVE WELCOME.** The meeting was opened by Mr. Rhynedance, Designated Federal Officer for the Board of Visitors, who welcomed guests to USMMA and Melville Hall. Rhynedance acknowledged receipt of a jointly signed letter from all Congressional Members of the Board indicating their support for Representative Tom Suozzi as Chairman of the Board of Visitors for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, replacing Senator Deb Fischer. Rhynedance indicated he would include the letter in the official Board Minutes (Attachment 1) and called for a vote from the assembled Members. The vote was unanimous, 11-0, in favor of Representative Suozzi, who then officially convened the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS.** Rep Suozzi called the meeting to order and opened by welcoming Board members and attendees. He complimented the location of the meeting for its historic nature and its ability to showcase some of the infrastructure issues the Board would ultimately discuss. Chairman Suozzi additionally offered the following comments:

USMMA is a national treasure that contributes to our Nation's economic and national security.

USMMA is unique among the federal service academies based on the Sea Year apprenticeship program that places cadets aboard military and civilian vessels for up to 300 days during their four-year experience at the Academy.

Chairman Suozzi introduced - to the Board - the Academy Battle Standard and its legacy commemorating the 142 Cadet-Midshipman lost at sea in World War II during their Sea Year apprenticeships.

He discussed recent legislation for the Congressional Gold Medal honoring the sacrifices of Merchant Mariners during World War II. [DFO NOTE: Once minted, the Congressional Gold Medal is scheduled to be housed at the American Merchant Marine Museum on the USMMA campus.]

He discussed the repeatable meeting format Rear Admiral Buono brought to the last Board meeting and offered his support for continuing that format, based on the six USMMA Strategic Priorities. Chairman Suozzi offered that the Board would be most

interested in Infrastructure and working with colleagues in Congress to bring much needed investment to the Academy.

Chairman Suozzi closed his remarks by offering each Board member the opportunity to make an opening statement. Chairman Suozzi offered the first opening to Representative Peter King and noted that after 28 years in Congress Rep. King was not seeking re-election and would be missed as an important member of the USMMA Board of Visitors.

#### BOARD OF VISITORS OPENING REMARKS:

REPRESENTATIVE PETER KING: Rep. King stated that he was pleased to be able to attend and thanked Rep. Suozzi for his continued interest in the Board and willingness to serve as the Chairman. He noted with interest the progress that has occurred over the years at the Academy and he complimented the work of Rear Admiral Buono, the National Parents Association, and the Alumni Association and Foundation for their ongoing efforts to support USMMA. He opined that things are moving in the right direction at USMMA, that is has been an honor to serve over the years, and that he has nothing but great memories of Kings Point.

REPRESENTATIVE MIKIE SHERRILL: Rep. Sherrill acknowledged the mission at USMMA is vital to our national security interests. She offered her focus will also be on infrastructure and indicated her two goals for the Board meeting were to: 1) find out what resources the Academy might need from Congress to assure its mission, and 2) to take back as much information on the Academy as possible to share with students in her district. She stated that USMMA is an underutilized pathway to success for students aspiring to an engineering education and she would like to spread the word in her district, our back yard.

MR. MICHAEL MORRIS (DELEGATE FOR RADM MICHAEL WETTLAUFER): Mr. Morris indicated Military Sealift Command is one of the largest employers of mariners with nearly 7,000 in different capacities. He indicated each year MSC takes on between 150 and 200 Cadets from USMMA during their Sea Year training, and acknowledged the importance of USMMA as the largest producer of Strategic Sealift Officers in the Nation.

MS. JENNIFER BOYKIN, USMMA '86, PRESIDENT, NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING: Ms. Boykin indicated her desire to know more about infrastructure challenges at the Academy. In addition to a strong desire to know more about the leadership development process at USMMA as it relates not only to serving as a mariner or an active duty officer, she indicated interest in how it relates to serving in the industry, noting the strong USMMA leaders she has worked with in the profession.

MR. KEVIN WALSH, USMMA '05, SANDY HOOK PILOT: Mr Walsh indicated his desire to champion USMMA not as the best kept secret among federal service academies, but as the best Academy, second to none. He also indicated he has broad experience at

other federal service academies, and is interested in assisting with infrastructure challenges.

REPRESENTATIVE JACK BERGMAN: Stated he already observed past, present and future at the meeting. Specifically, described the past as the infrastructure that clearly requires upgrade and repair. The present, which was the meeting in which they will discuss all those items, and the future, as the impact the Board can have on the country and the leaders that come through USMMA.

VADM JOHNNY B. WOLFE, JR., USMMA '88, U.S. NAVY: Indicated his career success started at USMMA. The leadership development and academic foundation is not surpassed anywhere in the country. He indicated his commitment to making sure that never changes. Indicated the Sea Year experience sets the institution apart from peers and like organizations, and that infrastructure is a key interest during his service on the Board.

RADM MEREDITH AUSTIN (DELEGATE FOR VADM DANIEL B. ABEL): Representing VADM Abel, echoed earlier comments about the value of the foundational experience that is USMMA, and how it is critical to our national security.

LT. COL. ROBERT S. VOLKERT, USMC, USMMA '95: USMMA reputation is top notch, interested in keeping the proud Kings Point legacy alive. Looking forward to discussing Sea Year and infrastructure among many other items.

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR MARK BUZBY, USMMA '79, REAR ADMIRAL, USN Ret.: Welcome and thank you on behalf of Secretary Elaine Chao. Thank you to the Board for the excellent turnout. It is great to have the focus of the Board on this national treasure. It is an honor and a privilege to oversee the day-to-day operations of this institution and the partnership from the Board, the USMMA Alumni Association and Foundation and the National Parents Association, all working together. It's great to see what we have done here and to realize what we can get done.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S OPENING REMARKS RADM BUONO: Honored to welcome the newly reconstituted Board of Visitors. RADM Buono offered three items in introduction: a definition of who we are, a description of his vision, and an assessment of how the Board can assist USMMA into the future. Buono introduced the immediate executive leadership team and the supporting senior staff and faculty members. He noted that USMMA is similar to other federal service academies (FSA) in that USMMA offers an Ivy League-type education. He pointed out that the items that distinguish USMMA from the other FSAs are the requirements to take and pass a U.S. Coast Guard licensing examination prior to graduation, and the USMMA apprenticeship program, the 300-day Sea Year experience. RADM Buono pointed out that USMMA provides 80% of the Strategic Sealift Officers each year and described their unique role in the event of a national emergency. He described his recent orientation with the U.S. Navy in the

Middle East and how valuable it was to see USMMA graduates fully involved in those operations, at all levels. He went on to describe his vision in terms of the six strategic priorities and the strategic plan, which is the structural foundation for all Board of Visitors meetings. He closed his remarks by telling the Board how he is looking forward to their presence, he pledged to actively and proactively communicate, and he assured the Board that the Master Plan and the NAPA Study would each be a driving force for the year, answering the general Board desire to be involved and informed about infrastructure upgrade and modernization.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Suozzi called for approval of the December 14, 2018 Board of Visitors meeting minutes. Hearing no objection from the Board, the minutes were unanimously approved, as drafted.

#### USMMA UPDATE TO THE BOARD (THE SIX STRATEGIC PRIORITIES):

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1 – EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM, DR. JOHN BALLARD, ACADEMIC DEAN AND PROVOST: Pleased to report that we have significant improvement underway in Strategic Priority #1. As we enter our second year of the Strategic Plan, we have undertaken a holistic review of the Academic Pillar, to ensure the learning process at USMMA is second to none, and so every midshipman has a full and robust opportunity for academic and leader development while at the Academy. Our review has been collaborative and has included revising 127 syllabi, of which 24 are complete, while we undergo a full reconstruction of all five majors. The new program will include three Sea Year splits which will better support sequencing and give us the ability to offer academic concentrations to midshipmen. It will better support the Sea Year experience of our athletes, and will better support the overall leader development of each midshipman. We have completed the reconstruction of the plebe academic year and we have three more to go. We plan on activating the new structure in July 2021. Sea Year: We have sufficient opportunity between Military Sealift Command (25%) and Commercial (75%) availability to provide for all midshipmen's Sea Year. More would be optimum and would offer more flexibility. As more companies complete SCCT requirements, those opportunities and flexibility will increase. Garmin satellite devices are a positive addition to the Sea Year program. We are very pleased as we enter our 67<sup>th</sup> week of positive communications performance with the devices. They are working well. Career Counseling continues to be a strength. Two Sea Fairs per year offer graduating seniors the opportunity to talk and interview with a multitude of companies. Blue water opportunities are fairly flat, but adequate in numbers to accommodate our graduates. We are working to increase brown water opportunities as well. Finally, happy to report that we have completed our review with Middle States and we are now fully accredited again, fully compliant with no follow up assessments other than the routine required. We are working on better educational assessment here at USMMA, active

learning techniques and the modifications to the curricula we discussed. We believe this will all contribute to strong continued performance with Middle States in the future.

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT, DR. PING FURLAN, DEPARTMENT OF MATH AND SCIENCES:** Dr. Furlan described her duties as a Chemistry Professor, and her role in the advocacy of STEM with USMMA students and students in the local community. As the Science Club Advisor, she is active in community STEM Outreach, conferences, local educational outreach and STEM role modeling that included an award-winning display in support of the Year of the Periodic Table, in which USMMA highlighted the role Sodium plays in maritime operations.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2 – INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE, RADM JACK BUONO, SUPERINTENDENT, CAPT MIKEL STROUD, COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN:**

**RADM BUONO, SUPERINTENDENT:** Institutional Culture is the hearts, minds and souls of the midshipmen and the faculty. We are proud of all the work we have done on institutional culture, but we can do better. It is critical to cultivate a culture of respect that is free from sexual assault and sexual harassment. Pleased to report all OIG recommendations have been closed. We have brought on a new sexual assault and response coordinator. The Sexual Assault Gender Relations Study is wrapping up and early indications are that our numbers are trending in a downward direction. We are cautiously optimistic about this trend. Alcohol is a focus area for us. We believe alcohol is a factor in incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault, and believe reducing incidents where alcohol is present or abused will also have a downward impact on sexual assault and sexual harassment.

We have completed installation of security cameras around campus and in barracks. All barracks have security card access in place. We are issuing GPS satellite phones to every midshipman that goes to sea. We recently completed a renovation of all fencing along the campus perimeter.

We are seeing an aggregate increase in women applying for and attending USMMA. The Class of 2023 entered with 27 percent women. The class also arrived with 17 percent minority representation. We can do better in these areas and we will continue to focus on it.

Our Excellence in Athletics program goes after student and student-athlete behavior on the fields and in the stands. The Athletic Director will discuss it in greater detail, but we are very proud of this effort.

**CAPT MIKEL STROUD, COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN:** We are working hard on Institutional Culture. Contributing has been the ongoing fulfillment of open positions in the department. We now have Strategic Sealift Officers overseeing all the companies, except Band Company which has a specialized Company Officer.

**Q:** How long can you keep the Company Officers in their position?

A: They come on a one-year contract, with options for up to three years.

We are working on a Midshipman Health and Wellness initiative that will involve the hiring of a Director of Wellness that will work from the new Midshipman Activities Center.

MIDSHIPMAN FOCUS, KYLEIGH KAPPAS, COMMANDER, REGIMENT OF MIDSHIPMEN, CLASS OF 2020: Midshipman First Class Kappas is the seventh female to hold the top leadership slot for midshipmen. Kappas described her background, her experience at KP, and her desired legacy as the Regimental Commander.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3 – INFRASTRUCTURE, RADM JACK BUONO, SUPERINTENDENT, RDML SUSAN DUNLAP, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT: RDML Dunlap described the development of the Real Property Master Plan in terms of methodology and ongoing reviews. Indicated the Master Plan is an aspirational document. Still requires additional development and consideration for modernization efforts for the infrastructure.

RADM BUONO. Capital Improvement Plans. Trying to consolidate efforts with the Master Plan so all projects are managed. We are missing a comprehensive project management plan that addresses each project and items like swing space, design changes, etc. Good news is that we are making great progress on the Lower Roosevelt Field baseball/soccer renovation, we are soon to award the Samuels Hall project, we have completed the initial renovations to the chapel, and we are making good progress on the development of the Midshipman Activities Center (a student union which we do not currently have), and the Student Learning Center. The Master Plan will be comprehensive for the Academy. We will have a Master Plan, hopefully by the end of the summer, but as quickly as possible. The Student Learning Center and the Midshipman Activities Center are the cornerstones of the modernization efforts, and we are ready to bring forward the Activities Center.

Q: When will the Congressional funds you already have be spent?

A: Without a Master Plan, six to eight years.

Q: How much additional funding do you need for the new projects?

A: We hesitate to quantify that at this point, but we will have a better idea as we complete initial design research.

Q: When discussing new facilities with the Army Corps of Engineers and others, can you design and build to maintain the iconic look and feel of the Academy?

A: Yes, our goal on design criteria is to incorporate the best of the old and the new.

CHAIRMAN SUOZZI: Encourage you to use your outside support, like the Board of Visitors. Say clearly what you need so we know exactly what our part of the mission is.

Q: What has been the biggest roadblock to renovation and movement into the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

A: Our ability to create and maintain an executable Capital Improvement Program. Our Master Plan will alleviate that.

Q: With the National Association of Public Administration assessment help?

A: We believe it will be complementary and reinforcing.

Q: What is the pink area on the Master Plan graphic?

A: That is a private residence. We cannot secure the campus because we do not own all the property within it. We are working on acquisition to increase security.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #4 – GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND ADMINISTRATION, RDML SUSAN DUNLAP, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT: Guided by the Strategic Plan, since last meeting we have reformed the USMMA Advisory Board, the Board of Visitors, and the METER-B. The Advisory Board reports their work to the Secretary of Transportation and the METER-B focuses on education and reports to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. The METER-B is made up of senior MARAD officials.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #5 – COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS, MR. GEORGE RHYNEDANCE, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, COMMANDER MIKE BEDRYK, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS:

In addition to being the chief communications officer at USMMA, I also co-chair the Strategic Priority #5 working group with CDR Mike Bedryk, the Director of Admissions, who is an Army Reservist currently deployed to active duty in the Middle East. We wish him well on his year-long tour of duty.

By way of update, we'd like to offer the following on Strategic Priority #5: Social Media presence. Creating and maintaining social media was a specific task in the strategic plan, and since we initiated it in 2018, our Facebook presence has been a runaway added value to the Academy. While we are proud to report that we now have more than five times the followers we had last year, more importantly, Facebook has allowed us to communicate on our terms, in our time, and with our news. It has become a primary source of information about the Academy. Whether the news is good or bad, we are able to tell our story when and where we want. Our followers are primarily parents, families, alumni, potential recruits and their families, educators and industry. They appreciate knowing what is going on, and hearing from the source. The FB presence



alone has answered to the issues of transparency, timeliness, comprehensiveness, and frequency that were brought up in the strategic planning working groups. Since our last review, we have added an official presence on the Twitter platform, as well.

In addition to the Social Media success, the Strategic Priority #5 Working Group undertook a full refresh effort of the website last year. We are pleased to report we have completed that design effort, we have ported content to the new site and we are currently soft-launched and updating content while checking connectivity. As you can see, referred to charts), our new site is dynamic, visual and responsive (meaning it shows the same on phone, tablet or laptop), and most importantly, we now compete on more even footing with the other federal service academy websites.

Additionally, leadership engagement, primarily with the Superintendent, included over 120 visits to critical audience locations around the country this past year, allowing us to contribute materially to dispelling the best kept secret. Regular issues of the newsletter, monthly Town Hall meetings for faculty and staff updates, and a refreshed regular appearance in the Alumni quarterly magazine have increased our presence among different target audiences.

CHAIRMAN SUOZZI: I strongly recommend you establish a student advisory board to assist on Social Media.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #6 – ATHLETICS, MR. KRISTOFER SCHNATZ, DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS: I have been here now for about six months and will discuss the role and values athletics plays in leadership development. We have three priorities in athletics: 1) To create an environment of inclusivity and community, 2) To strive to compete with winning teams, and 3) To support the core values of Respect, Honor and Service. We recently implemented the Excellence in Athletics program which focuses on zero tolerance for profanity, taunting or fighting, and sets a high standard for athletes for positive competitive behavior. It holds students and student-athletes to account when emotions run high. We teach to a leadership rubric that assesses performance and that accounts for such things as knowledge, expertise, team climate, teamwork, character, motivation and initiative. We hope to soon make that rubric focus on peer-to-peer assessment and ultimately on individual assessment.

CHAIRMAN SUOZZI CALLED FOR CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE BOARD:

LT. COL. ROBERT S. VOLKERT, USMC, USMMA '95: Agree with the idea to start a student advisory board for Social Media.

Q: How are Strategic Sealift Officers selected for tactical officer positions?

A: Extensive selection process, centrally controlled, each selectee is on a one-year contract, so if personality or performance aren't at the appropriate level, selectee can move on relatively quickly.

RADM MEREDITH AUSTIN (DELEGATE FOR VADM DANIEL B. ABEL): Congratulate you on the Master Plan, seems you are on the right track.

Q: Regarding Institutional Culture, are collaborating with the other federal service academies on the subject?

A: Yes, the federal service academy leadership collaborates extensively. Examples are the annual Conference of Service Academy Superintendents (COSAS) and special subject conferences like the Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment conference the Deputy Superintendent will attend later this spring.

VADM JOHNNY B. WOLFE, JR., USMMA '88, U.S. NAVY: I applaud the efforts that have gone into getting the Academy back on the right track. Encourage you to take opportunities to listen to the midshipmen as they are interested in shaping some of the things we are doing. My compliments on what you are doing here.

REPRESENTATIVE JACK BERGMAN: My sense is that we have the right team leading the Academy. The mission is clear and I'm happy to be on board. Look at the potential for a congressional baseball event to open the new field.

REPRESENTATIVE MIKIE SHERRILL: Looking forward to following up on additional background information at a later date. One concern for consideration is minority membership (lack of) on the Board.

MR. MICHAEL MORRIS (DELEGATE FOR RADM MICHAEL WETTLAUER): This has been a most informative meeting. Compliments on the Master Plan effort. Plan to go to three splits is heartening for the additional opportunity it brings to the academic program.

MS. JENNIFER BOYKIN, USMMA '86, PRESIDENT, NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING: Appreciative of the leadership and progress on the Master Plan. Glad to hear the Academy is skeptical ("cautiously optimistic") on sexual assault and sexual harassment study results. Encourage you to reach out to experts in design and planning for the execution of the Master Plan.

MR. KEVIN WALSH, USMMA '05, SANDY HOOK PILOT: Offered congratulations on getting past the dark times with accreditation and Sea Year. Moving forward, infrastructure is my major concern. The NAPA study will be a great step in moving forward.

REPRESENTATIVE PETER KING: Noted the great turn around at USMMA. Commented on the cooperation and value of the collaboration he sees among the USMMA leadership, Alumni Association and Parents Association. Complemented the vision of RADM Buzby and RADM Buono.

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR MARK BUZBY, USMMA '79, REAR ADMIRAL, USN Ret.: Thanks to the Board members, it is heartening to have this level of support from the Board. Complements to RADM Buono, fortunate to have him here.

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS: Leadership matters. Clearly have great leadership between Maritime Administrator, Superintendent and whole team. I am fortunate to have been able to witness the turnaround here. Acknowledge the Alumni Association and Foundation, and the National Parents Association, and their contributions to the Academy.

CHAIRMAN CALLED FOR QUESTIONS OR REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR: Hearing no questions or remarks, Chairman Suozzi asked the Superintendent for closing comments.

RADM JACK BUONO, SUPERINTENDENT, CLOSING COMMENTS: We appreciate everyone's kind words. Staff is doing a great job, sometimes doing the work of 2 or 3 people. Fact of the matter is the Academy is understaffed. We have a complement of 280 authorized full time employees, but can't seem to get above 240-243. Ongoing problem we are working on and one you will hear more about. Complements to our Alumni Association and Foundation and National Parents Association for their consistent support. It is extraordinarily helpful. Thank you to the Board and those in attendance.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1130 a.m.

Video of the Board of Visitors meeting can be reviewed at:

<https://www.maritimetv.com/Featured-Content/Featured-Videos/Videoid/3979/new-us-merchant-marine-academy-board-of-visitors-meeting>

Submitted by: Mr. George Rhynedance, Designated Federal Officer to the Board of Visitors, 516-726-6048, [rhynedanceg@usmma.edu](mailto:rhynedanceg@usmma.edu).

\_\_\_\_\_ I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete. Representative Thomas Suozzi, Chairman, USMMA Board of Visitors.

These minutes will be formally considered by the Board at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

Attachment 1

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2020

The Honorable Mark Buzby  
Administrator  
Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Administrator Buzby:

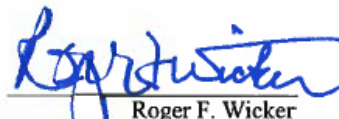
We write to nominate Congressman Thomas R. Suozzi as the Chair of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors (USMMA BOV).


Congressman Suozzi has served on the USMMA BOV since he came to Congress in 2017. The Congressman is a former member of the House Armed Services Committee, on which he served on the Subcommittee on Tactical Land and Air Forces. The USMMA is located in Kings Point, Long Island, which is in Nassau County and in Congressman Suozzi's district. As former Nassau County Executive (2002-2009), Congressman Suozzi has worked closely with the USMMA community and their brave merchant mariners for many years.

As appointed members of the USMMA BOV, we are confident that Congressman Suozzi will work to advance the mission of the Academy as the BOV Chair. Please allow this letter to serve in lieu of a vote at a formal board meeting so we can get to work serving our midshipman.

Sincerely,

  
Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

  
Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator

  
Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

  
Jerry Moran  
United States Senator

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Max Rose  
Member of Congress



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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress