



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Maritime  
Administration**

ADMINISTRATOR

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

September 29, 2022

79th Anniversary of the Dedication USMMA (Academy Birthday)

Regiment of Midshipmen, Faculty, and Staff:

On behalf of the Department of Transportation and the Maritime Administration, it is with great pleasure that I extend sincerest congratulations and warmest wishes on the occasion of the 79th Anniversary of the dedication of our Academy on September 30, 1943.

You are to the U.S. Merchant Marine what West Point is to the Army and Annapolis is to the Navy. Your “Deeds not Words” tradition was born from WWII Mariners’ courage and selfless sense of duty.

I am proud that, 79 years later, USMMA continues an unbroken tradition of building leaders of exemplary character—leaders who are mentally, physically, and morally strong, even under the pressure that only someone who makes their living by the sea would know. And I can tell you from my talks with carriers that you are desperately needed in the fleet.

I am also so proud of the initiative shown by Midshipmen in promoting and supporting an inclusive and diverse campus. Our diversity is our strength. And only by prioritizing diversity can we enable this Academy to draw on the talents and promises of every member of our campus community.

We are also committed to strengthening our ongoing work to ensure that every Midshipman has a safe environment in which to learn—on campus and at sea—and in which there is no tolerance for any form of sexual violence or harassment. Like the generations before you, you will sail the open seas and move the cargoes that keep our economy growing. And, like the generations before you, we will be the ones to answer the call to move the cargoes that are essential to enable us to defeat any adversary on any shore.

I’ve shared with many of you that I believe now is a critical moment in the future of our service. We have an opportunity to make meaningful changes in our industry—not simply to respond but to evolve beyond all expectations. You play a vital role in ensuring

this industry remains ready and relevant to support our economic and national security.  
Thank you for all you do. Happy Anniversary!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips (USN, Ret.)