



*The Association for Rescue at Sea, Inc., helps protect mariners from the perils of the sea by providing monetary and in-kind donations to world volunteer maritime search and rescue organizations. AFRAS is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity. [www.afras.org](http://www.afras.org)*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 15, 2016

**Contact:** Brandon Brewer  
[brandon.brewer@afras.org](mailto:brandon.brewer@afras.org)

**SEARCH AND RESCUE AWARD FOR MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY TRAINING SHIP CREW**

The captain and crew of a U.S. maritime academy training ship who rescued a mariner in distress in the Atlantic Ocean will be honored at a Capitol Hill search and rescue awards ceremony in September.

The [Association for Rescue at Sea](http://www.afras.org) will present its Special Award to a representative of the Maine Maritime Academy training ship State of Maine at their annual awards ceremony. The event will be held at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington D.C., Sep. 21, hosted by Congressman Duncan Hunter, Chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Coast Guard Subcommittee.

The [Amver](http://www.amver.org) participating ship State of Maine rescued a lone sailor after his sailboat began taking on water 520 miles southeast of Halifax, Canada, June 10, 2015. After the initial call for help, U.S. Coast Guard authorities launched search and rescue aircraft from both the U.S. and Canada, but soon discovered, using the Amver system, that the State of Maine was only 29 miles away from the sailor in distress and was willing to divert to attempt a rescue. Cadets aboard the ship readied rescue equipment, fast rescue boats and rigged a Jacob's ladder to allow the sailor to board the ship. Within a few hours of the initial notification, the survivor was safely aboard the training ship.

Amver, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, is a computer-based voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to people in distress at sea. During emergencies, any rescue coordination center can request the computer-based Amver surface picture – which gives positions of all Amver-registered ships – to determine the relative position of vessels near the distress location and divert the best suited ship or ships to respond.

AFRAS helps protect mariners from the perils of the sea by providing monetary and in-kind donations to world volunteer maritime search and rescue organizations. The charity also recognizes and honors extraordinary maritime rescues through an awards program and annual ceremony. AFRAS is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity. Visit [afras.org](http://afras.org) to learn more about the organization, or make a charitable donation.