



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

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SEARCH AND RESCUE AWARD FOR HOLLAND AMERICA LINE CRUISE SHIP CREW

The captain and crew of a cruise ship who rescued a downed pilot in the Pacific 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 Amver Award to a representative of the cruise ship Veendam, from the Holland America Line fleet, at their annual awards ceremony at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington D.C., Sep. 21. Congressman Duncan Hunter, Chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Coast Guard Subcommittee, will host the event.

The [Amver](http://www.amver.org) participating ship Veendam's crew rescued the pilot from a single engine plane after he ditched his aircraft in the ocean, after experiencing fuel and engine problems, 200 miles northeast of Maui, Hawaii, Jan. 25, 2015. U.S. Coast Guard authorities launched rescue assets after the initial call for help, but found that the Veendam was in the path of the aircraft, using the Amver system. After the aircraft hit the water, the pilot got into his life raft and was quickly recovered by the crew of the Veendam. The pilot was uninjured and remained on the ship until it reached its next port of call.

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 to learn more about the organization, or make a charitable donation.