



President Bush Uses Labor Day Message to Praise the Jones Act

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- President Bush, 9/4/06

President Bush spent Labor Day at the Seafarers International Union’s (SIU) Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training & Education in Piney Point, MD, where he made remarks in support of the U.S. maritime industry and the Jones Act.

President Bush said, “...it’s important for Presidents to embrace the Jones Act. [SIU President Mike] Sacco was constantly talking to me about that. I have...supported the Jones Act, and will continue to do so as the President.”

The President gave his Labor Day address to over 700 people at the vocational training facility run by shipping companies and affiliated with the SIU, which trains seamen to work on ships ranging from luxury cruise liners to tugboats. About 600 students study seamanship at the 60-acre school, located in southern Maryland.

In his speech, Bush also said that training is the critical variable that will keep U.S. seafarers competitive in the decades ahead. During his visit, Bush toured the facility and tried his hand on a navigation simulator. The President took the wheel of a mock U.S. Coast Guard cutter amid dozens of dials and digital displays to steer it out of Baltimore, MD’s Inner Harbor toward Fort McHenry.



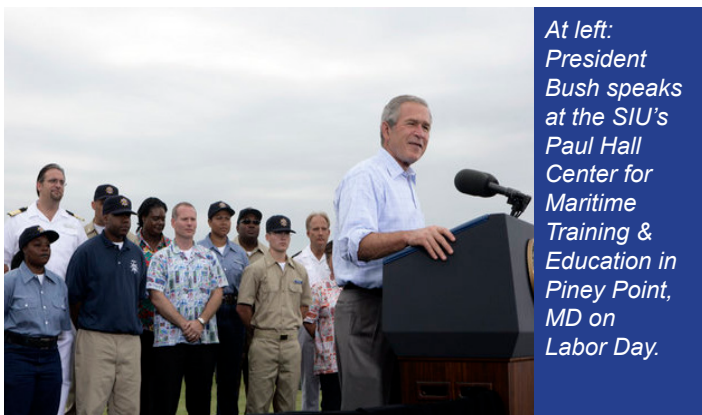
President Bush and SIU President Mike Sacco in the simulator room at the SIU training facility.

Connaughton Sworn in as Maritime Administrator

On September 6, 2006, Sean Connaughton was sworn in as the new Maritime Administrator for the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD). At his confirmation hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on July 27, 2006, Senator Inouye (D-HI) asked Connaughton about his stance on the Jones Act. Connaughton replied, “I will tell you that the administration strongly supports the Jones Act and I strongly support the Jones Act as well, Sir.”

In his statement to the Committee, Connaughton said he recognized the U.S. maritime industry needs to focus on congestion relief, maritime and port development, national security and environmental stewardship. Connaughton also told the panel that America has the world’s largest maritime trading economy and that he understood that America’s security depends on a strong maritime industry.

Connaughton’s biography can be viewed at: <http://www.marad.dot.gov/Offices/administrator.html>.



*At left:
President Bush speaks at the SIU’s Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training & Education in Piney Point, MD on Labor Day.*

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