



U.S. Department of
Transportation
Maritime Administration

ADMINISTRATOR

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 6, 2023

Dear California State University Maritime Academy Graduating Class of 2023:

On behalf of the entire Maritime Administration, I offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes to you—the CAL Maritime class of 2023!

Graduation marks the culmination of four years of hard work, dedication, and preparation. I know that over the course of your time at CAL Maritime, you developed and honed your leadership skills, confronted challenges, learned from and overcame setbacks, and reveled in your victories.

And now, as you move towards your bright futures, I charge you to continue to hone your ability to adapt. It is a critical life skill that will assist you greatly in a world where changes come quickly and often without notice.

Whether your career choices lead you to the bridge of a cargo vessel in the middle of a storm, or to a port call on a clear day, your ability to quickly assess facts and shape your response to meet that moment and accomplish your objective may be just the thing that garners success for both you and your shipmates. Being adaptable builds success.

Now with the guidance of your Superintendent, RADM Thomas Cropper, and your faculty, and staff, you are ready for the next chapter of your careers. You join the ranks of so many exemplary CAL Maritime graduates who will provide fresh leadership and new perspective to our nation's evolving maritime industry. And we need you—at sea, on the vessels flying our nation's flag and moving the cargoes on which our economic success and national security depend.

Again, from the entire Maritime Administration—we're so very proud of all that you've done during your time at CAL Maritime, and we wish you the best as you begin this next phase in your careers as merchant mariners! Class of 2023, please accept my heartiest Congratulations! May you find fair winds and following seas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann C. Phillips".

Ann C. Phillips
Maritime Administrator