

Distinguished Public Service Award To

AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes great pleasure in presenting the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award to the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) in recognition of 150 years of outstanding maritime safety achievement. Since its formation as the American Shipmasters' Association in 1862, ABS has established itself as one of the world's preeminent classification societies. From the publication of its first technical standard, *Rules for the Survey and Classing of Wooden Vessels* in 1870, ABS has propelled itself to the forefront of international standards development for maritime safety, security of commerce, and environmental protection - and now represents over 100 flag administrations as a recognized organization. The safe operation of thousands of vessels and offshore facilities in countless ports bears witness to ABS's unwavering commitment to its purpose. As an original member of the International Association of Classification Societies, ABS was instrumental in establishing a standardized framework of rules to which over 90% of the world's vessel tonnage adheres. For over 70 years, ABS and the U.S. Coast Guard have been tirelessly working in partnership to uphold the safety of life at sea. ABS rules have been "incorporated by reference" into Federal regulations, a testament to their enduring public value. ABS has provided robust expertise in carrying out inspection activities on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard. Moreover, the Coast Guard's newest cutters bear the distinction of being built to ABS class requirements. The American Bureau of Shipping's professionalism, innovation, and dedicated leadership in the global maritime community over the last 150 years are most heartily commended, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United State Coast Guard.