



U.S. Department of  
Transportation

# News:

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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE  
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STATUE OF LIBERTY CELEBRATION  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Mr. President, Mrs. Reagan, President Mitterrand, Madame  
Mitterrand, distinguished guests, and fellow Americans:

Today, the Maritime world gathers to pay homage to "Liberty Enlightening the World." As Secretary of Transportation and Departmental Head of the United States Coast Guard, I hope you will forgive me for looking with special pride on the first among the Tall Ships, the Coast Guard's own Eagle, which this year celebrates a birthday of its own -- 50 years afloat and as proud a symbol of American ideals as the Lady herself.

For months now, painters and poets, writers and musicians have struggled to tell us what gives Miss Liberty her firm grip on our imaginations. At first glance, there's her colossal size. But it was not that which moved thousands of shopkeepers and salesgirls, school children and farmhands to donate their nickels and dimes a century ago and a century later.

No -- it's not the size of the statue but the boldness of the idea -- The revolutionary notion that ordinary people have extraordinary potential. It is an idea as old as mankind, and as fresh as the latest breakthrough in science or medicine. An idea which each generation must interpret for itself. This statue was meant to challenge as well as commemorate, to remind us that so long as opportunity is denied to a single man or woman, then our work as Liberty's guardians is unfinished.

I have yet to hear a better definition of Bartholdi's masterpiece than the one offered by little Haryn Singleton, a ten year old member of the Coast Guard community here on Governors Island.

"The statue means freedom and justice," he says. "We know. She's right out there."

Right out there, indeed. And with Haryn's generation inspired to a similar idealism, she will remain "out there," to raise our sights and rouse our emotions, for as long as this old world needs light to see by, and a star to chart its course. God bless her and God bless you all.