

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.  
QUEEN ELIZABETH II CEREMONY  
JULY 4, 1992  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Foreign Minister **Luis (Lu-ees) Yanez-Barnuevo** (**Jah-nes-Bar-new-a-vo**), Ambassador **Boris Biancheri** (**Bee-ahn-kerri**), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. As Secretary of Transportation and head of the United States Coast Guard, it is my pleasure to welcome you and the maritime world to New York Harbor.

Special thanks to Captain **Robin Woodall** for the gracious hospitality aboard the QE II -- and to **Dermot McDermott**, Chairman of Cunard Cruise Lines. You should be very proud of this outstanding vessel.

Congratulations to **Frank Donatelli**, Chairman of the U.S. Quincentenary Commission, and Dr. **Luis Lobato**, President of the Grand Columbus Regatta International Technical Committee. As this scene in New York harbor attests -- you have both provided remarkable leadership in putting together this tribute to Christopher Columbus.



The tall ships' visits to this harbor have become as much a part of our American Independence Day celebration as fireworks, music and patriotic speeches. Their sails are a welcome sight against the backdrop of our precious symbols of freedom and liberty and hope. The ships came here in 1964, and again in 1976 to celebrate our nation's bicentennial. And they returned in 1986 to help us rededicate the Statue of Liberty after it had a facelift.

But no visit has been as truly magnificent and spectacular as this one. The tall ships have greater significance today. They are important symbols of international cooperation, of seamless links in a world grown smaller and of camaraderie among sailors of the world.

Indeed this is a very, very special occasion. The Washington Post jokingly referred to the event as "the second coming of the Spanish Armada -- this time minus the cannons, and on our side of the ocean." Let me say this to you: Americans open their hearts, arms and minds to such an international armada -- an armada of peace and goodwill.



Of course, I am particularly proud that the first among the tall ships is the Barque Eagle, the U. S. Coast Guard's link between past and future. The Eagle is 56 years old and still used to train new Coast Guard officers.

Today as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus, let us remember that without his daring there might not be an America let alone an American Independence Day. Columbus certainly made great advancement in the world's transportation system. His voyage linked forever the Old World and the New. His courage and sense of adventure resulted in the development of permanently established water routes that are the highways uniting the world today.

America and the world owe much to Christopher Columbus and today -- on our U.S. Independence Day - - we pause to pay him that much deserved tribute.

Thank you very much. God bless America, and God bless all her friends throughout the world.

###