

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW CARD, JR.  
SAIL BOSTON OPENING CEREMONY  
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Thank you ... What a pleasure it is to be back in Boston and to welcome once again to our shore the international parade of Tall Ships .

Who can forget the majestic image of the world's tall ships when -- during the celebration of our Bicentennial -- they sailed past our harbor like graceful swans on a calm, mid- summers day.

This peaceful international armada of sail has returned to us to celebrate another joyous occasion -- the five-hundredth anniversary of the voyage of Christopher Columbus.

It was said of Columbus that he believed his discovery of the new lands beyond the gates of Hercules would usher in the end of time.

In a way he was right -- for his voyages meant the end of the world as the Europeans and all the civilizations of the America's knew it. With the massive exchange and encounter of peoples, foods and animals that came in Columbus' wake, a fantastic transformation took place throughout the societies of the Old and New Worlds. As these "seeds of change" took root on every



continent, the boundaries of tradition were forever altered.

Columbus' voyage also meant a new beginning. For out of this "crucible of cultures" -- this mix of peoples from every corner of the globe -- an entirely new civilization arose here on this continent: an American civilization and one which first took root and grew right here in Boston. A civilization based upon the principles of liberty, equality and democracy.

Columbus' voyage also revealed more than simply the New World to the Old. What was revealed was man's insatiable quest for knowledge -- the need to discover and explore no matter what the odds or the risk.

"We Americans celebrate discovery" -- President Bush recently said at a dedication ceremony marking Columbus' voyage -- "because we're never satisfied, because we are ever romancing the next horizon."

This need to explore, to surmount almost any difficulty is part of our New England -- our MASSACHUSETTS -- seafaring tradition. From our very first days as a colony, ships from Boston harbor set out to explore America's waterways and later to seek new passages to the Far East for commerce. For centuries this nation depended upon yankee sailors and cutters for contact and trade with both the communities of the



New and the Old World. The wealth of this nation was founded upon their sea adventures and trials

The rich heritage of the sea continues today in Massachusetts and throughout all New England. The lexicon of nautical language and literature -- of stems and keels, of Joseph Conrad and Herman Melville, of bowlines and clove hitches -- is still a real part of our lives. And -- I might add on a personal note -- gave me reason to go sign up with the Merchant Marine

This seafaring spirit of exploration goes on too, of course, but no longer by clipper ships seeking new and quicker routes. Instead, it's underwater vessels coming out of Woods Hole exploring the unfathomable depths of the oceans, or space craft run by software produced by a route 128 company, exploring the outer reaches of the heavens.

So the age of discovery is far from over for us. And like Columbus, we too seek to probe the secrets of the world.

What wonders will be revealed, again, is anyone guess. But after 500 years, the adventure of exploration -- which truly began with Columbus' voyage -- will continue well into the 21 century.

Thank you and have a great celebration.