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## AMO Salutes Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, a 'Maritime Hero'

Today, the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jones Act, we in American Maritime Officers congratulate Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao on her selection as the American Maritime Partnership's first American Maritime Hero — a fitting testament to Secretary Chao's unyielding support of the U.S.-flag merchant fleet and of American merchant mariners.

On Secretary Chao's watch at the Department of Transportation, the Maritime Administration is receiving high-level attention as it tends each day to its increasingly important mission. Today, it is most appropriate to note Secretary Chao's frequent personal intervention to safeguard the Jones Act amid relentless calls for waiver, amendment or outright repeal.

The American maritime industry — which serves our nation's economy and its national security interests so well — is fortunate to have Secretary Chao as an advocate. She is indeed a hero.

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