

NEWS**Don Young**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** ALASKA MEDIA ALERT *******First Alaskan Cadet Completes Phase One of Seafarers International Union's Alaska Cadet Training Program**

Washington, D.C. - Alaska Congressman Don Young announced today that the first Alaskan cadet to complete Phase One of the three-phase Alaska Cadet Training Program will begin three months of training aboard the TOTE vessel, *Northern Lights*. Greg Guay, of Anchorage, will be honored in a ceremony at 8:00 am on Saturday morning, August 16th at the Port of Anchorage.

"I would like to commend Greg on his achievement and encourage him to continue working hard toward the realization of his final goal, completion of the program," Young said.

"I hope that more Alaskans take advantage of this incredible opportunity to begin or further their careers in the merchant marine," he added.

The program involves the recruitment of young men and women from Alaska to serve aboard U.S.-flag Jones Act vessels. After attending the SIU's educational facility in Piney Point, Maryland for three months of extensive training, the applicant will return to the Pacific Northwest for three months of on-the-job training, as well as completing specific projects required by the unlicensed cadet program aboard a U.S.-flag vessel serving Alaskan ports of call. Following this, the applicant will return to Piney Point for final course work and Coast Guard certification, and upon successful completion of the program, the applicant will be granted membership into the SIU, taking full advantage of the opportunities offered by contracted companies.

Members of the media are invited to attend the ceremony, which will take place on the TOTE vessel, *Northern Lights*. Further information can be obtained by contacting Harold Holton at (907) 561-4988.

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