

James Muldoon, NBF Committee Member, Receives Governor's Chesapeake Bay Ambassador Award for His Contributions to Sport, Education, and Boating Safety

(St. Mary's City, MD) August 18, 2010—More than two dozen sailing and boating-related organizations, including the U.S. Coast Guard, Special Olympics Maryland, and US SAILING, recently joined together to honor James P. Muldoon, avid sailor and community leader, for his commitment, leadership, and achievements in the field of recreational boating and boating safety. Muldoon, who lives in Washington, D.C., and Bethesda, is founder and CEO of METCOR, a government relations and high technology training company.

Sheila Hixson, chair of the Ways and Means Committee of the Maryland House of Delegates, presided over the surprise tribute, which was held at St. Mary's College of Maryland on Aug. 7 during the Governor's Cup Yacht Race weekend. "We have no doubt that Mr. Muldoon will make many more contributions to the recreational boating community in years to come, but we wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done over the past four decades," Hixson said.

Captain Mark Rizzo, chief of the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety for the U.S. Coast Guard, called Muldoon "one of the Coast Guard's most caring and compassionate partners." He went on to praise Muldoon's support for the Coast Guard Foundation and his 11 years of service as chairman of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council.

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot represented the Governor in presenting Muldoon with the Chesapeake Bay Ambassador Award. "You have selflessly shared your knowledge and passion," Franchot said of Muldoon, "and in so doing you have brought enlightenment and opportunity to many young people, tomorrow's stewards of the Bay." Franchot also presented an award from his office recognizing Muldoon's service to numerous charitable boards.

Among the representatives of those young people were members of the St. Mary's College sailing team who, along with Coach Adam Werblow, presented a framed team burgee signed by members of the school's 2010 national championship sailing team. Muldoon, chairman of the Board of Trustees at St. Mary's College, is a longtime supporter of the school's sailing team. His generosity enabled the school to build its new sailing center, the James P. Muldoon River Center, which opened in 2009. "Thanks to Mr. Muldoon's passion, vision and drive, we now have the best sailing center in the country," Werblow said.

Muldoon also was recognized by Special Olympics Maryland for his numerous contributions to its sailing program, including his initiative to train Special Olympians and their coaches to sail large yachts in addition to small craft. This year, for the first time, a boat crewed completely by Special Olympians competed in the Governor's Cup Race. Patricia Fegan, president and CEO of Special Olympics Maryland, added, "Jim has not only donated his boat for Special Olympics Maryland fundraising auctions but he also came to Special Olympics Maryland with the idea of having Special Olympians sail aboard his boat on major bay races."

Also on hand to pay tribute to Muldoon was Pat Ewing, program director of Brendan Sail Training Program for Students with Learning Differences, a program founded by Muldoon. Ewing participated in Brendan nearly three decades ago. Now he passes those lessons along to a new generation of youths. "Jim's contributions are evident all around us, in the water of the Chesapeake and in the confidence of the students he helped to put out there," Ewing commented. "Through the Brendan Sail Training Program, he has made sailors out of a lot of people who never would have had the opportunity, and the world is a better place because of it."

After listening to tribute after tribute with similar heartfelt messages, the normally stoic Muldoon had tears in his eyes. "I am truly humbled," he said, as he thanked those who had gathered to honor him.

Muldoon has long been actively involved in international sailing and boating-related organizations. He has captained his own 73-foot yacht, *DONNYBROOK*, with a highly competitive amateur team in hundreds of races and has accrued over 75,000 miles of blue water ocean racing.

As evidenced by the many groups that gathered to honor Muldoon, he has made tremendous contributions to the boating community. Among the more than 30 leadership positions he has held over the years are the following: chair of the Department of Homeland Security's National Boating Safety Advisory Council, member of the Board of Directors and chair of the Development Committee for the Coast Guard Foundation, founder and president of The Brendan Sailing Training Programs for Youths with Learning Differences, founding board member and vice president of the National Sailing Hall of Fame, and president of United States Sailing Association. He also has served US SAILING in numerous capacities, including as vice president of the Government Relations Committee, administrative division director, and chairman of the Training Committee.

In addition to those mentioned above, the following organizations joined in the tribute to Muldoon: American Red Cross, Annapolis Community Boating, Annapolis Community Foundation, Annapolis Sailing School, Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association, Coast Guard Foundation, Downtown Sailing Center Baltimore, Kidship, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, National Boating Federation, National Boating Safety Advisory Council, National Maritime Heritage Foundation, National Safe Boating Council, National Sailing Hall of Fame, National Water Safety Congress, Sailing Center Chesapeake, Shearwater Sailing Club, Spirit of America, United Safe Boating Institute, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Power Squadrons, and United States Sailing Association.

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Suggested caption: Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot (right) represented the Governor in presenting Jim Muldoon (left) with the Chesapeake Bay Ambassador Award. In the background, his son Jim Muldoon Jr. and Roberta Lowman look on. Both are active supporters of the Brendan Program.