

July 2, 1979

REMARKS by Oregon Congressman LES AuCOIN
in welcoming ceremonies for the
Coast Guard Cutter Resolute
in Astoria, Oregon.

Good afternoon. It's an honor for me to be here today to join in welcoming the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Resolute to her new home.

The Resolute and her crew have earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence during more than a decade of service. We're proud to welcome such an outstanding ship and crew to Oregon, and to Astoria.

The golden "E" displayed on the Resolute's hull represents five commendations for superior performance in annual training voyages. The Resolute also has compiled a remarkable rescue record.

Just last year she safely brought the crippled carrier ship Star K to Portland from the scene of a collision with a container ship in the Gulf of Alaska. Though the Star K lost 60 feet of bow in the collision, the Resolute's damage control crew worked around the clock to control flooding while she was towed, stern-first, 1,500 miles to Portland for repairs.

In addition to her search and rescue exploits, the Resolute has carried out an important surveillance mission in protecting the fisheries of the West Coast. She has conducted more than 100 boardings annually of foreign vessels for inspection of catches.

Speaking of the Resolute's golden "E," I believe the citizens of Astoria deserve an "E" as well -- for effort and excellence -- in a long and now-succesful community campaign to upgrade Astoria as a Coast Guard port.

I don't need to remind any of the community leaders here today that Astoria has suffered setbacks in its effort to strengthen its economic base.

But this ceremony today attests to the persistence of this community and its resolve to better itself. It is entirely appropriate that Astoria should be welcoming today a ship named Resolute.

I'm delighted that Astoria will be home port for this highly decorated vessel and her crew of seven officers and 53 men. I join with the citizens of this community in extending a warm welcome.

Maybe I should amend that to say "welcome back." Because this sleek, 210-foot cutter is carrying Oregon cargo.

So I'll say welcome back, Commander and Mrs. Beima. Commander, I hope you'll find Oregon as green and as friendly as you knew it during your school days in Portland.

To all the officers and men of the Resolute, let me say that we Oregonians are pleased to know you'll be protecting and serving our mariners in the Pacific Northwest. Welcome to Oregon and welcome to Astoria.