

LCDR Carl G. Rhodes, NOAA

Chief of Operations, NOAA Marine Operations Center – Pacific

National Anthem

ENS Airlie G. Pickett, NOAA & HAST Amanda Finn

NOAA Ship Rainier

Remarks

CAPT Keith W. Roberts, NOAA

Commanding Officer, Marine Operations Center - Pacific

Representative David Gomberg

District 10 – Central Coast, Oregon State Legislature

RDML Shepard M. Smith, NOAA

Director, Office of Coast Survey

RDML Nancy L. Hann, NOAA

Deputy Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations and NOAA Corps

Denise Harrington and Lisa Battig

Teacher at Sea Alumni

CDR Mark Van Waes, NOAA

Commanding Officer, NOAA Ship Fairweather

CDR Benjamin K. Evans, NOAA

Commanding Officer, NOAA Ship Rainier

Closing

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Tifty years ago, in March of 1968, two state-of-the-art hydrographic survey ships were christened in Jacksonville, Florida.

Fairweather and Rainier were two of three survey ships constructed at Jacksonville Shipyards. Following hydrographic tradition, the ships were named for features near their working grounds—Alaska's Mt. Fairweather and Washington's Mt. Rainier.

The U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey commissioned the ships in October of that year at Lake Union, Seattle. *Mt. Mitchell* was launched one year earlier and, though no longer commissioned with NOAA, is still operating as a privately-owned research vessel.



Today we recognize the successful history of NOAA ships Fairweather and Rainier, as well as the professional mariners, hydrographers, and commissioned officers who have served aboard these ships. Though the name of our agency has changed, and the tools and techniques have advanced, our mission remains as critical as it was fifty years ago. The dedication, commitment, and collective effort of these ships is key to supporting NOAA's mission of science, service, stewardship.

