



Tall Ships America

The New Face of ASTA

29 Touro Street, PO Box 1459

Newport, RI 02840 USA

Tel: 401-846-1775 Fax: 401-849-5400

Email: asta@tallshipsamerica.org

Website: www.tallshipsamerica.org



Contact: Lori A. Aguiar, Director of Operations

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401-846-1775 - asta@tallshipsamerica.org

Photos available on request

Media Advisory for Immediate Release

Newport, RI:

Over 350 people celebrated the 90th birthday of Henry H. ("Harry") Anderson, Jr. at an evening "gam" and fundraiser for the American Sail Training Association (ASTA) held at the New York Yacht Club's Harbour Court, Saturday, June 18th in Newport, RI. The event honored Commodore Anderson's unwavering commitment to sailing and sail training, while at the same time allowing friends and family to shower him with well deserved accolades. It was a truly a special night.

"In June, I shall reach four score and ten," said Commodore Anderson. "Having been Chairman of ASTA, now Commodore emeritus, I hope to use the occasion of my 90th to provide a legacy to establish a robust endowment of \$1.5 million in support of ASTA's mission to encourage character building through sail training, promote sail training to the North American public, and support education under sail. What greater accolade to a chap in his twilight years?"

Harbour Court, overlooking Newport Harbor, was the perfect setting and it was a beautiful summer night for a party. Cocktails were served on the lawn while guests perused the silent auction tables. During dinner, Harry shared some personal stories of sailing, a bust of his likeness was revealed, and Gary Jobson, Master of Ceremonies, showed a special video he produced highlighting Harry's amazing contributions to the sailing world. Later in the evening, a live auction was held for which Mr. Jobson filled the role of auctioneer. The evening was capped off with music and dancing to the tunes of the Alex Donner Orchestra.

It was a festive night celebrating the life and accomplishments of a remarkable individual and sailor as well as raising awareness of the mission of the American Sail Training Association (of which Harry is an original founder). Proceeds from the event combined with donations to the Henry H. Anderson, Jr. Endowment Fund totaled \$400,000.

Henry H. ("Harry") Anderson, Jr. has dedicated his life to sailing and along the way has inspired many young people to follow his course. Commodore Anderson's first competitive sailing event was the 1936 Newport - Bermuda Race in which he sailed at the age of 15. That early adventure began what has become a highly distinguished and internationally renowned avocation. Commodore Anderson has served as **Chairman of the American Sail Training Association**, **Commodore of the New York Yacht Club** and on several America's

Cup Race Committees, once as Chairman. He worked as one of the first Executive Directors of the **North American Yacht Racing Union** and later as a member of **US Sailing's Appeals Committee**. He is co-author of *The Centennial History of the United States Sailing Association*.

A co-founder of **Yale Sailing Associates**, Commodore Anderson sailed for Yale from 1939 to 1943 and is also well-known in international circles as a past vice-president of the **International Yacht Racing Union** and as a **judge on the international collegiate racing circuit for more than 52 years**. A strong supporter of youth competitive sailing, Commodore Anderson played a critical role in establishing the **University of Rhode Island's Sailing Center and fleet of 420s**. He has served for more than 30 years on the Board of Directors of his high school alma mater, **Ransom Everglades School** in Coconut Grove, Florida, which hosted the **1997 Interscholastic Sailing Championships**, and has named both its Sailing Center and its Gymnasium in his honor.

Henry H. Anderson, Jr. was presented with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** by the **American Sail Training Association** at its 1998 Annual Conference on Sail Training and Tall Ships and 10 years later at ASTA's 2008 Annual Conference, was presented with a **Special Recognition Award** for his achievements and continuing support of the ASTA mission. Commodore Anderson has also been awarded the **Nathanael G. Herreshoff Trophy** by US Sailing for his "outstanding contribution to sailing in America" in 1979, and he received the **Beppe Croce Award from the International Sailing Federation in 1996**. He has also received the **Richard S. Nye Trophy** from **Cruising Club of America** and been awarded an **Honorary Degree from the University of Rhode Island**.

The American Sail Training Association (ASTA) is the established and recognized hub for tall ship activity, information, and expertise in North America and has been commended by the U.S. Congress as the official Sail Training Organization for the United States. A dynamic 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to the advancement of sail training and educational opportunities under sail and the preservation of the maritime heritage of North America, since 1973, ASTA has supported education under sail and youth character development aboard tall ships. ASTA represents over 200 member vessel operations in the U.S. and worldwide, and their activities directly support youth education and leadership development programs that profoundly shape young people's lives and help build tomorrow's leaders.

For more information contact:

Tall Ships America

Tel +1 401 846-1775, Fax +1 401 849-5400

Or visit our web site at www.tallshipsamerica.org

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