

July 3, 2010 KALAKALA'S News Letter

In Celebration of the Kalakala's 75th Anniversary
July 3, 1935 to July 3, 2010

July 3, 1935, a day within the Great Depression era, was a special day for a special maritime event and vessel within all of America and the World. She was designed, built, and named "KALAKALA", and became instantly renowned around the world as the "World's First Streamline Ferry". On July 3, 1935 a few other most significant national and world's first's were also to be included within the Kalakala's introduction. Such as; her interior Art Deco features; her former Peralta steamer engines converted to 3000HP main and 600HP auxiliary Busch-Sulzer direct drive diesel engines(the last to exist on any ship in the world); she had the world's first fire suppression system installed on any vessel; and her most important significant historic national impact was the world's first ship to be built using electric arc welding materials and technologies on any ship's superstructure. Other features were later honored and used within the Kalakala's lifetime of services: Such as, the world's first commercial radar installed in 1945 after WWII ended, not to mention her moon light cruises and Flying Bird Orchestra!

If this isn't enough to celebrate her 75th birthday then I can share many other reasons to do so as well! She became the flagship and pride of a century of vessels that re-instated the Black Ball Line flag for a third time. The Black Ball Line and flag all ended in 1951. Although, after 1951 she was still the flagship of her Washington State Ferry system fleet until 1967. A public survey proved that during the 1962 Seattle's World's Fair, she was ranked as the second most favored tourist attraction during the world's fair, second to the new Seattle Space Needle. Beyond her engineering, architectural, and mechanical technological revolutionary world's firsts, she was also once the second most photographed physical structure in the world (second to the Eiffel Tower), admired, loved, and touched thousands and millions of peoples hearts, souls, and spirits so much that she is still remembered today around the world.

Today, July 3, 2010, I am unable to be with the Kalakala in the State of Washington to celebrate with her. But, I am thinking of her on her special day this year while visiting within the heart and soul of all of America. Yes, within and nearby our nations White House in Washington D.C. I am writing this birthday card or news letter! I feel this is where our constitution lives and breathes the life, liberty, and freedom as originally drafted, ratified, and the following Bill of Rights are what are used to govern our nation today. And, since January 27th, 150 days have passed since I started the Kalakala's Walk of HOPE. So far, I have walked 750 miles of a total 1000 miles committed within significant maritime cities across America. My daily walks of HOPE within Washington D.C. are to see, not with a set of tourists' eyes, all the national treasures here. But, my walks will be focused towards our Antiquity Act and writing letters and scheduling future meeting dates with: President Obama (who is known as a president of HOPE). I will write a letter to ask for a future scheduled meeting with him, and ask him to use his powers to sign the Antiquity Act to honor the 1935 MV Kalakala as a National Historic Landmark.

I am requesting meetings with: National Parks Service – National Register of Historic Places; Save America's Treasures –National Historic Trust; U.S. Department of Transportation; U.S. Coast Guard Commandant; U.S. Department of Agriculture –Business and Industry program; National Archives Library; National American History Library; and of course all of Congress representatives who love, respect, and treasure centuries of their states maritime treasures. I will seek letters of support for the Kalakala to become a National Historic Landmark under the Antiquity Act.

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY KALAKALA!!:), Steve Rodrigues, President, Kalakala Alliance Foundation