

Dear Jim,

We have all been touched by the El Faro incident and there have been many moving statements and gestures offered as we all attempt to come to terms with the loss. I am contacting you to tell you of the wonderful gesture of support offered to students of the Maine Maritime Academy by the parents of the United States Merchant Marine Academy. As you are probably aware, the USMMA Parents have adopted a tradition called the Cookie Cafe where the parents bake cookies and send them to your students. We were notified by a USMMA parent that they donated last week's Cookie Cafe to Maine Maritime Academy students and all week, boxes from California, Texas, Florida and other areas around the country have been arriving in our little post office – 450 dozen cookies in fact!

The past couple of weeks have been a challenge for this community, but the thoughtfulness of you parents is something that I wanted to bring to your attention and to the attention of our other colleagues. We are indeed one community of mariners and I ask that you express my appreciation to USMMA parents association. Below is a photo of our students at Fort Madison here in Castine enjoying cookies from around the country in a show support for our fellow shipmates and their families.

Regards,
Bill

