

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 6, 2013

NOAA Ship *Ferdinand R. Hassler*
Judd Gregg Marine Research Complex
29 Wentworth Road
New Castle, NH 03854

Dear Friends,

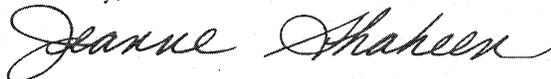
Thank you for the invitation to attend the Change of Command Ceremony for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship *Ferdinand R. Hassler*. I am sorry that I am unable to attend to celebrate this important occasion. I would like to express my gratitude to Lieutenant Commander Benjamin Evans for his dedicated service and give a warm welcome to Lieutenant Commander Marc Moser.

Under the leadership of Lieutenant Commander Benjamin Evans, the *Ferdinand R. Hassler* continued to build on the foundation of oceanic survey pioneered by its namesake in the 19th century. In the 21st century, the *Hassler* and its crew have undergone several successful missions to collect hydrographic data to assist NOAA in modernizing their nautical charts. Updating these charts will help the mariners of New Hampshire and the country navigate the oceans and the Great Lakes. Lieutenant Commander Ben Evans has dutifully fulfilled a commitment to help scientists to broaden our understanding of the ocean and benefit further research of the oceans and their environment.

I'd like to offer my congratulations to Lieutenant Commander Marc Moser on his new leadership position. You are joining a proud and strong team and I am sure you will continue to uphold its tradition of excellence throughout your time here.

Again, thank you for this invitation, and I look forward to hearing of your continued success.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator