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House of Representatives

Statement of Congresswoman Darlene Hooley Honoring Mr. William Benedetto December 6, 2006

Ms. Hooley: Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. William Benedetto, who was recently the first Oregonian to be awarded the 2006 U.S. Maritime Literature Award for his book Sailing Into the Abyss.

Mr. Benedetto's service to this country began when he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard after finishing high school in Maine in 1946. During his time with the Coast Guard, Mr. Benedetto served on every coast in the areas of search and rescue, port security and with the U.S. Merchant Marine. He was commended by the Coast Guard for performing rescue operations when Hurricane Betsy hit New Orleans in 1965.

Mr. Benedetto retired from the Coast Guard in 1974 after moving to Oregon and beginning his college career. He graduated from Portland State University in 1977 and from the University of Oregon Law School in 1980. After practicing law for twenty years, Mr. Benedetto retired and completed his longtime goal of writing a book. Sailing Into the Abyss was published in 2005 and was awarded the 2006 U.S. Maritime Literature Award in June of this year.

I believe I speak for the great state of Oregon when I say we are proud to call Mr. Benedetto a writer, a serviceman, and an honorable citizen of our state and country.

Congratulations, Mr. Benedetto.

