

CRUISE NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American Cruise Lines *Independence* is illumined with liberty's smile

Guilford, CT - On the day we celebrate our country's independence, United States Senator Susan M. Collins named the newest ship to the American Cruises Lines' fleet. Rockland's Mayor Deborah McNeil presented American Cruise Lines with the key to the city. It is a privilege to have American Cruise Lines in this great city of Rockland, one of Maine's finest coastal cities.

Senator Collins before breaking the bottle on the bow said "I am delighted to have the opportunity to welcome the ***Independence*** to Rockland, and to have the honor of christening the ship. The State of Maine has a proud and longstanding maritime heritage, and today's event underscores that our seafaring traditions continue to flourish."

The ***Independence's*** whistle made one long blast after the christening.

The Naming Ceremony was during the first of 13 Maine Coast & Harbors 7-night cruises for the ***Independence***. In addition to Rockland the ***Independence*** will visit the ports of Bar Harbor, Boothbay Harbor, Camden, Belfast, Castine and Portland.

The new American-flagged ship carries 104 passengers and shares all the American Cruise Lines qualities of innovative modern designs, which include state of the art technologies. The fully stabilized ship meets all the newest and most stringent safety and environmental standards.

As a native Mainer, Senator Collins has a deep appreciation for the state's maritime heritage. She is a strong supporter of shipbuilding at Bath Iron Works and at the many smaller boatyards up and down the coast.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, she has always been a strong advocate for the U.S. Coast Guard and its vital mission of safeguarding our nation's waterways.

Senator Collins also understands what it takes to run a successful small business in Maine. Her family runs a fifth-generation lumber business in her hometown of Caribou. Her uncle, the Honorable Samuel Collins and his wife, Dottie, who live in Rockland, were onboard for this star spangled celebration.

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About American Cruise Lines

American Cruise Lines operates the newest fleet of small ships in the industry and offers twelve unique itineraries along the inland waterways and rivers of the Pacific Northwest and East Coast of the United States. To learn more about American Cruise Lines, visit its website at www.americancruiselines.com or call (800) 814-6880.