



Press Release

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AMVER TANKER SAVES FOUR SWEDES IN HIGH SEAS RESCUE

NEW YORK – Four Swedish sailors were rescued by the tanker Parthenon in a dramatic high seas rescue, during weather so rough a rescue helicopter had to return to shore, shortly before midnight Saturday, September 28th.

Captain Vasileiadis Lazaros, master of the Greek flagged tanker, was sailing to the Port of Setubal when his crew heard a distress call from the sailboat Sun Chaser approximately 84 miles west of Cabo Sao Vicente, Portugal. Within two minutes of receiving the distress Captain Lazaros was on the bridge directing the ship to proceed to the stricken sailboat.

The Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System (Amver), sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. The Parthenon has been an Amver participant since 2003.

Steering the 800 foot tanker, managed by Tsakos Group of Athens, Greece, towards the distress location Captain Lazaros notified Portuguese rescue authorities. “I ordered all crew to standby on deck,” stated Captain Lazaros as he began preparing to rescue the four Swedes.

Coordinating his efforts with Radio Lisboa, Captain Lazaros overheard a Portuguese rescue helicopter order the Swedish sailors into a lifeboat. “The sailors radioed the rescue helicopter and said they could not abandon ship in the rough weather because their lifeboat had been ripped from the sailboat and drifted away,” Captain Lazaros added.

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As weather conditions deteriorated the rescue helicopter was unable to safely hoist the sailors and returned to base leaving the 107,000 ton dead weight tanker the only means of rescue for the sailors.

“I ordered the Sun Chaser to make fast to our port side amidships and had the crew lay down the pilot ladder,” Captain Lazaros recounted in an email to the Amver center. Within two minutes of lowering the pilot ladder the first survivor was safely on board the Parthenon. Within three hours of receiving the call for help the Parthenon had rescued all four Swedish sailors.

The Swedish survivors, two men and two women, were cared for aboard the Parthenon and taken to Setubal where they were met by Portuguese officials.

With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,300 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

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