Washington, DC -- The National Capital Council of the Navy League of the United States presented its annual Congressional Sea Services Award to U.S. Rep Todd Akin, R-MO., in a ceremony last night on Capitol Hill.

The award, which is given annually by the council, honors a U.S. Representative or Senator for outstanding contributions to the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

In remarks during the ceremony, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley praised Akin's service and dedication on behalf of the sea services as chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces. Leaders from each of the sea services were on hand to salute Akin, with Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Vice Adm. John Blake; Marine Corps Deputy Commandant Lt. Gen. Richard Tryon; Adm. Robert J. Papp, Commandant of the Coast Guard; and a representative from the Maritime Administration, were all in attendance.

National Capital Council President Charlie McCullough presented the award to Akin. The award features a compass binnacle from the SS Sioux Falls Victory, a Victory ship that saw duty during World War II, Korea and the Vietnam War. Its crew earned a battle star for action during the assault on Okinawa in 1945. The binnacle is on loan from the Maritime Administration.

Past winners of this award include; Rep. C.W. Bill Young (R-FL), Sen. John Warner (R-VA), Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO), Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS)

Congressman Akin stated that he was both honored by the award and humbled by the company of past award winners.

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