



2025 COMMENCEMENT

California State University

Maritime Academy

MAY 3, 2025



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We want to acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the Indigenous People past and present. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of the Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Graduating Class of 2025:

On behalf of the entire Cal Maritime community, congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone. Today, as we celebrate our 95th commencement ceremony, we honor your hard work, resilience, and the unwavering dedication that brought you to this moment.

As you cross this threshold into the next phase of your journey, know that you do so with the admiration and support of all those who have cheered you on—family, friends, faculty, staff, and peers—each of whom has seen your growth and determination firsthand.

You are well-prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The knowledge you've gained, the experiences you've shared, and the character you've reinforced at Cal Maritime have equipped you to lead with integrity, courage, and purpose.

Wherever your path takes you—on land or at sea—I have no doubt that you will continue to make us proud. Carry forward the Cal Maritime spirit and let your success be guided by the values that brought you here.

We can't wait to see where you'll go from here.

Congratulations once again, Class of 2025!

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael J. Dumont". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Vice Admiral (Ret.) Michael J. Dumont, U.S. Navy
Interim President

2025 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



HONORABLE LEON E. PANETTA

Leon Panetta co-founded the The Panetta Institute for Public Policy with his wife Sylvia in 1997 upon completion of his service as White House chief of staff in the Bill Clinton administration. He co-directed it with her until 2009, when he left to serve as CIA director and then secretary of defense under President Obama. He returned to the Institute as chairman in 2013.

A Monterey native and Santa Clara University School of Law graduate, Secretary Panetta began his public service career in 1964 as a U.S. Army intelligence officer receiving the Army Commendation Medal.

Upon discharge he went to work in Washington as a legislative assistant to U.S. Senate minority whip Tom Kuchel of California. In 1969, he was appointed director of the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, where he was responsible for ensuring equal opportunity in public education, and later he served as executive assistant to the mayor of New York City. He then returned to Monterey, where he practiced law until his election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976.

Serving his Central Coast district in Congress for sixteen years, Secretary Panetta became a respected leader on agriculture, federal budget, ocean and healthcare issues, and from 1989 to 1993 he chaired the House Budget Committee. He won passage of the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988, Medicare and Medicaid coverage of hospice care for the terminally ill, and numerous measures to protect the California coast, including creation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

In 1993, Secretary Panetta left Congress to serve as director of the Office of Management and Budget for the incoming Clinton administration. There, he was instrumental in developing the policies that led to a balanced federal budget and eventual budget surpluses. In 1994, he accepted appointment as the president's chief of staff, and is credited with bringing order and focus to White House operations and policy making.

Upon leaving the Clinton administration in 1997, Secretary Panetta joined with his wife Sylvia to create and co-direct The Panetta Institute for Public Policy, based at California State University, Monterey Bay. Reflecting the Secretary's ideals and personal example, the nonpartisan, not-for-profit study center seeks to attract thoughtful men and women to lives of public service and prepare them for the policy challenges of the future.

Continued on next page

2025 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Secretary Panetta returned to public service at the start of the Barack Obama administration as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, where he supervised the operation to find and bring the international terrorist Osama bin Laden to justice. Then, as secretary of defense, he led efforts to develop a new defense strategy, conduct critical counter terrorism operations, strengthen U.S. alliances, and open military service opportunities to Americans regardless of gender or sexual orientation. He chronicles his life in public service in his best-selling memoir *Worthy Fights*, which was published by Penguin Press in 2014.

Over the years Secretary Panetta has served on numerous boards and commissions. He co-chaired California Forward, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, and Governor Schwarzenegger's Council on Base Support and Retention. In 2006 he served on the Iraq Study Group, a bipartisan commission seeking a new course for the war in Iraq. At present, he serves on the boards of directors for Oracle, Blue Shield of California and as co-chair of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Defense Personnel Task Force and the Center for Strategic and International Studies Commission on Countering Violent Extremism.

Secretary Panetta is the recipient of hundreds of awards and honors. Recent examples include the California Teachers Association's Friends of Education Award; the Judicial Council of California's Stanley Mosk Defender of Justice Award; the Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award; the Sons of Italy Foundation's National Education & Leadership Award; the Peter Benchley Ocean Award for Excellence in Policy; the Intelligence and National Security Alliance's William Oliver Baker Award; the OSS Society's William J. Donovan Award; and the National Defense Industrial Association's Dwight D. Eisenhower Award.

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Lennon Prothro-Jones
Dean of Students

PROGRAM

COME TO ORDER	Kolby Hill '26 <i>President, Associated Students of California Maritime Academy 2025-26</i>
POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE	U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West
ACADEMIC PROCESSION	Platform Party Faculty Graduate Students Cadets and Students
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Cal Maritime Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West
OPENING REMARKS	Vice Admiral (Ret.) Michael J. Dumont <i>Interim President</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Wenda Fong <i>Trustee</i>
GRADUATE STUDENT ADDRESS	Francisca Peterson '09, '25 <i>Master of Science, Transportation and Engineering Management</i>
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADDRESS	Charlotte Gott '25 <i>Bachelor of Science, Marine Engineering Technology</i>
INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER	Interim President Dumont

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Honorable Leon E. Panetta <i>Chairman and Co-founder, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy Former Secretary of Defense</i>
RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS	Interim President Dumont
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD LICENSING OATH	Captain Rachel Lewis <i>Commanding Officer of Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center, U.S. Coast Guard</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES	Dr. Graham Benton <i>Dean of Strategic and Academic Planning</i>
CONFERRAL OF MASTER'S DEGREES	Interim President Dumont
HOODING OF MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS	Dr. Dinesh Pinisetty <i>Executive Dean of Academic Affairs and Dean for the School of Engineering</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREES	Dr. Benton
CONFERRAL OF BACHELOR'S DEGREES AND ISSUING CREDENTIALS	Interim President Dumont and Dr. Pinisetty
CLOSING REMARKS	Interim President Dumont

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TRANSPORTATION AND ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

NOEL CABRAL

Engineering Management

Capstone: Hospital Communication
Between Departments

MICHAEL THOMAS RADEMAKER

Engineering Management

Capstone: Assessing the Feasibility of ZEV
Automotive Transportation

TIMOTHY ERICKSON

Engineering Management

Capstone: Securing America's Maritime
Force: A Comprehensive Strategy for
Managing Clearance-Eligible Mariners

ERIC ANDREW ROBERTSON

Engineering Management

Capstone: Healthcare Facility Archives:
Digital Standardization of Facility
Engineering Equipment Records

MICHAEL JOSEF JOHNSON

Transportation

Capstone: Escort Tugs and Critical
Infrastructure: The Need for Escort Tugs to
Prevent Maritime Allisions Around Critical
Infrastructures

ALBERT LOUIS SALDANA

Transportation

Capstone: Demurrage and Detention: Key
Drivers and Proactive Mitigation Strategies
for Shippers

CODY NEFF-ROGERS

Humanitarian Disaster Management

Capstone: Seismic Resilience for Vulnerable
Coastal Populations near the Cascadia
Subduction Zone

RICHARD DENNIS SHOLTIS II

Transportation

Capstone: The Future of Maritime
Education

RICHARD TYLER O'CONNOR

Engineering Management

Capstone: Energy Efficiency for Local
Ferries

MATTHEW LEE VAN RENSSELAER

Transportation

Capstone: Optimizing Maritime Logistics
for Space Exploration

FRANCISCA PETERSON

Transportation

Capstone: Electrification and Automation of
the San Francisco Bay Ferries

SANDY WALKER

Transportation

Capstone: Reducing Greenhouse Gases
in Ship-to-Ship Transfers with Vapor
Balancing

ALICIA PORTER

Engineering Management

Capstone: Managing Automation in the
Port of Los Angeles

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° Ensign, Strategic Sealift Officer, U.S. Navy Reserve

^ Ensign, Strategic Sealift Officer, U.S. Navy Reserve
Commissioned at a later date upon successful completion of all
academic and licensing requirements.

* *Cum Laude* (3.25-3.49 GPA)

** *Magna Cum Laude* (3.50-3.74 GPA)

*** *Summa Cum Laude* (3.75-4.00 GPA)

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ALMA MATER

Near the bay of San Francisco
tucked in Morrow Cove
Is a school we'll not forget, though
round the world we roam.
Light the boilers, weigh the anchors,
now we're in the breeze.
And we wish for all our shipmates,
smooth winds and foll'wing seas.

We may sail the world twice over,
all the seven seas;
Through the straits of old Gibraltar,
— the narrows of Valdez.
But whenever hearts grow lonely,
bounding on the main,
We'll think of you our Alma Mater,
and that will ease the pain.

Though the years may dim our mem'ries,
of our youthful ways;
The image of our dear companions
will linger in the haze.
California Maritime, we'll
ne'er forget when we
Spent our days in love and friendship
and endless harmony.



CAL MARITIME



The California State University