

SAFE HARBOR

A monthly newsletter for the Maritime worker
from

The Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.

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Thank you for your maritime service and taking the time to review our Newsletter. We at the Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. hope you find the following information helpful. If you have any questions regarding your rights or remedies please contact us at any time. We are here to serve you.



ARE YOU KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR SEA TIME?



Most mariners know the importance of keeping their original discharges for proper record keeping. If you have not, you could be at risk of losing valuable retirement/pension credits! Do not rely on your union to track your sea time fully and correctly! In fact, do not rely even on the Coast Guard to have a proper record of your time at sea. Many sailors have been victims of the inaccuracies of union record

keeping when it comes to the tracking of sea time. If a mariner has his original discharges these inaccuracies can often be corrected. Remember, those discharges are the same as cash when it come to your correct pension benefit!

QUESTION FROM THE BRIDGE

I am a union member of the biggest maritime union in the country. When I filed for retirement I thought I had 25 years of sea time for a maximum pension. They



advised me that my time was 2 years short for a maximum payout. How do I go about correcting this?

Henry, C, Galveston

Answer:

Henry, this is not an uncommon problem. First of all, I hope you have kept all of your original discharges showing your sea service time. This can often solve the problem if your totals are greater than what the union has in their records. Unions do make mistakes! You should also write to the Commandant of the Coast Guard and ask for their record of your sea time. This is helpful if you do not have all of your discharges. Compare all of these sources and then confront the union if you have evidence of greater sea time from these sources than the union records reflect.

About Our Law Firm

For more than four decades, merchant mariners, longshoremen, fishermen and harbor workers plying their trades at sea, on the docks, on our U.S. coastal waters and inland waterways have turned to the maritime law firm of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates in Oakland. Today, we are proud to be recognized as one of the preeminent maritime law firms serving injured marine workers nationwide, as well as one of the most successful personal injury litigation firms serving victims of negligence in the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout the West Coast.

Team Approach to Every Personal Injury and Jones Act Claim

When you retain Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates for a Jones Act injury claim, or personal injury claim, you don't get just one attorney, you get our entire team of dedicated professionals. Our attorneys offer many years of courtroom and negotiated claims settlement experience. We will represent your interests with unwavering dedication, speed and expertise.

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