

THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA

AMVER Award

2019

Presented to:

M/V GREEN LAKE

M/V NEW CENTURY 1

M/V GENCO AUGUSTUS

M/V VENUS SPIRIT

U.S. Coast Guard rescue authorities in the Fourteenth District were notified by Japanese Coast Guard officials that the M/V SINCERITY ACE, a 650-foot car carrier with 21 crewmembers aboard, was on fire and the crew was preparing to abandon ship on December 31, 2018. U.S. Coast Guard rescue personnel launched multiple search and rescue resources and queried the AMVER system diverting four AMVER ships to assist. The weather conditions were winds sustained at 24 knots gusting to 30 knots and waves of 17 to 20 feet.

Coast Guard rescue personnel ordered the master of the SINCERITY ACE to have the entire crew don life jackets, keep life rafts together and maintain custody of the Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB).

Meanwhile, the AMVER ships diverted to assist began formulating a search and rescue plan to save the crewmembers. The master of the SINCERITY ACE reported the fire had grown beyond the ability of the crew to control it.

The M/V GREEN LAKE assumed On Scene Coordinator, maintained communications with USCG officials and the SINCERITY ACE.

Crew members of the SINCERITY ACE began abandoning ship one by one and attempting to get into their life rafts despite the challenging weather conditions. Unfortunately, not all the crewmembers survived. The AMVER ships on scene were able to rescue 15 total crewmembers and recover several deceased crew members. At least three crewmen remained unaccounted for.

The four AMVER ships involved in SAR operations searched a combined 174 hours.