

Republic of the Marshall Islands

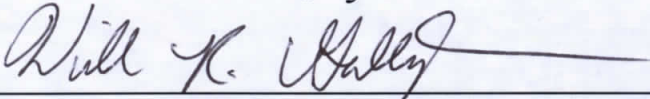
Office of the Maritime Administrator

Certificate of Commendation

The Maritime Administrator of the Republic of the Marshall Islands is honored to commend the Master, Officers, and Crew of the oil tanker OKYROE, managed by Product Shipping & Trading S.A., for demonstrating outstanding seamanship on the Twenty-First day of October, Two Thousand and Sixteen. While on voyage from Mellitah, Libya to Thailand, Captain Gabriel Goga received an urgent request from the Italian Coast Guard requesting assistance in a massive joint rescue operation approximately 20 nautical miles off the Libyan coast. Captain Gabriel Goga altered course and contacted the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center Rome for additional instructions. Once on scene, Captain Gabriel Goga and the Crew of OKYROE worked tirelessly with the Italian Coast Guard over a two day period to rescue and bring on board OKYROE 1,536 men, women, and children from rubber boats. OKYROE then transferred 778 of the survivors to an Italian Coast Guard ship, leaving 758 survivors still on board. The enormity of the operation presented Captain Gabriel Goga and the Crew of the OKYROE with tremendous logistical challenges including providing food, water, shelter, and medical care for the rescued individuals, as well as maintaining security on board. Once the rescue operation was completed, Captain Gabriel Goga and the Crew of OKYROE were directed to proceed to the port of Augusta, Italy where the remaining 758 survivors were safely transferred ashore to local authorities. The rapid response and professional actions taken by Captain Gabriel Goga and the Crew of OKYROE during this extraordinary rescue operation are in keeping with the finest traditions of the sea. Congratulations are in order for exemplary service to the maritime community.

Well done to Captain Gabriel Goga, Officers, and Crew!

Date: 20 July 2016

Signed by: 

William R. Gallagher

Senior Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs