

America's Freedom Sailor, bringing Universal Design to the sea

Jan Olijve, America's Freedom Sailor, New Orleans, USA (Presenter)

America's Freedom Sailor, a non-profit organization based in New Orleans, Louisiana will be a pioneer in the world of tall ship sailing for people with disabilities. AFS will allow people of all physical abilities to sail side by side, equally.

Based in New Orleans, Louisiana, America's Freedom Sailor is a non-profit organization with a mission to build the largest accessible tall ship in the world and the only in the United States. The founder, Mr. Jan Olijve, is a Dutchman who co-founded a committee for accessibility, Travel for All, which promotes accessibility throughout Europe. He is now bringing this same opportunity to North America. There are over 70 million people with disabilities in the U.S., as well as thousands of U.S. wounded soldiers.

AFS' goal is to accommodate people with disabilities along with their family or friends to explore the high seas, through the majestic and joy of tall ship sailing. New Orleans, a major port city, is the perfect location to launch America's Freedom Sailor. Teaming with ship design engineers at the University of New Orleans, and Universal Design pioneers at the State University of New York, this innovative concept will introduce the marriage of shipbuilding and Universal Design in the United States. The time is now for America to shine on a national level spreading goodwill globally.