



***Suquamish* christening**

On Thursday, I had the pleasure of christening our fourth Olympic Class ferry, *Suquamish*, in a traditional bottlebreaking ceremony. Gov. Jay Inslee, Chairman of the Suquamish Tribe Leonard Forsman, Senator Sharon Nelson, Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar, and Vigor CEO Frank Foti joined me to mark the occasion. It was wonderful to have the Chief Kitsap Academy Singers perform a traditional Suquamish song to add to the festivities!

The 144-car *Suquamish* will begin its sea trials in mid-2018 and will start carrying passengers beginning in the fall. The new ferry will operate on the Mukilteo/Clinton route in the summer and serve as a maintenance relief vessel in the winter, filling in when other vessels are out of service.

None of this would have been possible without WSF's new vessel construction team that has worked hard to reach this milestone. I would like to recognize Director of Vessel Engineering and Maintenance Matt von Ruden, Vessel Engineering Construction Manager Dave Visneski, Project Engineer Ron Wohlfrom, Inspector Dale Marty, Inspector Eric Grimes, Inspector Mel Helley, Inspector Doug Lee, Project Staff Master Greg Sugden, Project Staff Chief Engineer Bob Wolken, and Vessel Staff Chief Nate Ratcliff for their commitment to this project.

Here are some of my favorite photos from the day. Check out our [Flickr page](#) for more.

January 5, 2018

Winter schedule begins Sunday, Jan. 7

Don't forget to pick up your copy of the [blue winter 2018 schedule](#)! The new schedule starts this Sunday, Jan. 7 and runs through March 31.

If you travel on the Seattle/Bainbridge or Seattle/Bremerton routes, remember that there is a new sailing schedule this winter. Now is a great time to review it and plan ahead.



The joys of commuting aboard a Washington state ferry



The new vessel Suquamish



The Suquamish tribe performed a traditional song



Breaking a bottle of champagne to officially christen the Suquamish

WSF Stewardship Award

Last month, we honored Staff Chief Engineer Dave Knutsen

We love our customers and the creative ways they find to make the ferries their own during their daily commutes. This [article from the Everett Herald](#) shares the joys of the ferry commute. Our ferry riders truly have one of the most beautiful commutes and take pride in living the [#FerryLife](#) -style!

Kudos from Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar

Secretary Millar had some kind words to share with the WSF staff this holiday season.

"I want to take a moment to specifically thank everyone working at Washington State Ferries this holiday season. You keep people safe and moving on our marine highway and this is no easy task. From safely loading and unloading our boats, maintaining and repairing our fleet, piloting through all types of weather, solving customer issues, working with communities and even life-saving efforts, each day is different."

with our first WSF Stewardship Award. The award recognizes an individual or team whose efforts helped the organization achieve significant savings, efficiency or value in our efforts to care for state resources.

Dave is the lead engineer for the *Hyak*, our oldest ferry in the fleet. Despite its age, it is one of our most reliable boats because of his years of efficient and safe operations and maintenance of the vessel's engineering systems.

As a gifted mechanic, Dave finds creative ways to use *Hyak's* maintenance funds to keep the 50-year-old vessel afloat. Colleagues say it is because of his "pride of ownership" attitude that he has instilled in his crew.

But it's not just his attitude. It's Dave's knowledge and dedication and his calm, focused personality that has won the crew's dedication . He takes the time to train his crew by thoroughly explaining problem-solving procedures, which is why so many of his peers nominated him for this award. Congratulations, Dave!



Chief of Staff Elizabeth Kosa and I had the honor of presenting Dave with the Stewardship Award

Amy Scarton

Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

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Questions? Contact us at WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov

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