



District 8 - Florida International Order of the Blue Gavel

Yachting Customs and Courtesies

Boat Christening - Pelican Isle Yacht Club

Script for Boat Christening Ceremony:

"For thousands of years, we have gone to sea. We have crafted vessels to carry us and we have called them by name. These ships will nurture and care for us through perilous seas, and so we affectionately call them "she."

To them we toast, and ask to celebrate (vessel's name).

Then everybody raises their glass filled with champagne and shouts, "TO THE SAILORS OF OLD...TO (vessel's name). (Everybody takes a sip).

"The moods of the sea are many, from tranquil to violent. We ask that this ship be given the strength to carry on. The keel is strong and she keeps out the pressures of the sea."

Again the glasses are raised, and the assemblage shouts, "TO THE SEA...TO THE SAILORS OF OLD...TO THE SEA!" (Everybody takes another sip)

"Today we come to name this lady (vessel's name), and send her to sea to be cared for, and to care for (Owner's Names). We ask the sailors of old and the mood of God that is the sea to accept (vessel's name) as her name, to help her through her passages, and allow her to return with her crew safely."

Again, with the raising of the glasses, "TO THE SEA...TO THE SAILORS BEFORE US...TO (vessel's name)!"

(A last, long sip by all)