

**ACADEMIC SENATE**  
**of**  
**THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2462-99/EX  
May 6-7, 1999

**Resolution in Honor of Senator Ralph Davis: Departure For  
Quieter Waters**

- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis is about to leave the perilous moorings of the CSU Academic Senate to set sail upon the better charted waters of San Pablo Bay, the Napa River, and the Carquinez Straits; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis is the first and only Senator to represent the Maritime Academy in the Academic Senate of the California State University; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis has brought a salty touch to the Senate; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis, while experiencing many sea changes in the Senate, has always been aboveboard; and
- WHEREAS, It is rumored that Ralph Davis  
As a lad served a term  
As office boy to an attorney's firm  
And cleaned the windows and swept the floor  
And polished up the handle of the big front door.  
He polished up that handle so carefully  
That he became a Commander in the US Navy; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis never followed the adage of:  
Stick close to your desk and never go to sea  
And you all may become commanders in the US Navee; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis is at home on a bridge whether it is the Golden Bear or the Golden Gate or that above the Carquiniz Straits; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis has never been known to say avast, ahoy or land ho, but has often said Vallejo; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis is as at home on a bicycle as on a bridge, having ridden his bicycle from Vallejo to Malibu last year, often out of sight of salt water for hours at a time; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis can recall the navy of iron men and wooden ships; and
- WHEREAS, It has been said of the navy of Charles II that it contained seaman and gentlemen, but the seamen were not gentlemen and the gentlemen were not seamen, we know Ralph Davis to be both a seaman and a gentleman, as well as a gentle person; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis has never been adrift or seen to be three sheets to the wind; and
- WHEREAS, Ralph Davis has been heard to quote the poet Somerville:

Safe on shore the pensioned sailor lies  
And the malice of the storm defies  
With ease of body blest and peace of mind  
Pities the restless crew he left behind (in Long Beach); therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University thank Ralph Davis for his devoted service; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU wish Ralph Davis smooth sailing, fair skies, a brisk breeze and full sails; and at the end of his voyage a safe harbor; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU wish that Ralph Davis always have the wind at his back whether on a bridge or on a bicycle.

**APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION—May 6-7, 1999**