



Government House  
Bermuda

Sir Richard Gozney, KCMG  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief

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The Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge 2009

In June 2009 we welcome the intrepid Captains and trainee crews participating in the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge to Bermuda. This seven thousand nautical mile marathon, which includes of series of races, starting in Vigo and ending in Belfast, follows the traditional routes taken by sailors of an ingenious and by-gone era; an era which helped shape the settlement of Bermuda in 1609 and which we celebrate 400 years on. I have no doubt that this tremendous voyage will present the trainee crews, from Bermuda and the world over, a surfeit of thrills while they show teamwork and tenacity on the challenging yet captivating ocean which links Europe and the Americas.

The arrival of the Tall Ships fleet will be a spectacular occasion and a highlight of Bermuda's Quadricentennial celebrations. My heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making this such a memorable occasion for Bermuda - from the organizers and participants to the many volunteers without whom this would not have been possible.

Happy 400<sup>th</sup> Bermuda and good luck to all our young sailors.

Richard H T Gozney