

The CHESAPEAKE PILOT

(Chorus)

***I'm a pilot on the Chesapeake
I sail the charted waters
I know where all the rocks and shoals are
I know where the channel's deep
I know the buoys and beacons
The bridges and the highlines
I've worked this bay for thirty years
I can sail it in my sleep!***

**My name is on the blackboard
Up in the dispatch office
Like my dad's and all before him
Back before the age of steam
When I bring a loaded tanker
On the flood tide up to Balt'more
From the shore young men are watching -
It's still every bayman's dream
To be a**

(chorus)

**I'll ride out on the pilot boat
Two miles beyond Cape Henry
We'll call my inbound vessel
And ask him for a lee
It's hell out there on station
When winter gales are blowing
And you have to climb a ladder
In a rough and rolling sea
But**

(chorus)

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**I was on a downbound bulker
In a gale off Tangier Island
When a wind gust blew our radar down
We were blind for an hour or more
The captain started praying
When I yelled "Let go the anchor!"
When it cleared, he nearly fainted -
We weren't a quarter-mile off shore!**

(chorus)

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**Dedicated to the memory of Captain Lyn Deibert, Federal pilot, who
lost his life boarding a ship off Cape Henry in February 2007. (The
song was actually composed in 2001.)**

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