

The CHESAPEAKE PILOT

***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 US
IT'S STILL EVERY BAYMAN'S DREAM**

**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**

**I WAS ON A DOWNBOUND BULKER
IN A SQUALL 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!**