

### **No Finer Crew**

The voyage to the top of the planet was no small feat. Five years of scrupulous planning with one and a half months of the unpredictable and unexpected resulted in the unrivaled and unprecedented. The most comprehensive science battery ever embarked on a Coast Guard icebreaker resulted while POLAR SEA became the first U. S. surface ship to reach the North Pole and cross the Arctic Ocean. The first-time rendezvous of icebreakers from three Arctic powers at the North Pole was an unplanned milestone.

All were great accomplishments that would earn the ship the Canadian Coast Guard's highest honor, the U.S. Coast Guard's Unit Commendation, and countless accolades from scientists, sailors, and world leaders. The scientists would walk away with a wealth of knowledge that will change the way they view the earth and its environment. But inevitably, the true tales of glory go to the tenacious crew of POLAR SEA: a group of Coasties who handled the intense tasking—and surprises—of Arctic Ocean Section 1994 with both patience and, yes, panache. It is they who made possible both the engineering feats and the world-class science that became the hallmarks of AOS 1994.

Truly, never before has sailed so fine a crew. This is their tale.

