

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, District of Columbia

September 20, 1994

I am pleased to congratulate the officers, crew, scientists, and support personnel of the United States Coast Guard Cutter POLAR SEA on your successful journey to the North Pole.

As the first U.S. surface ship team to reach 90 degrees North latitude, you can be proud of your extraordinary contributions to scientific exploration. In concert with the Canadian Coast Guard Cutter LOUIS S. ST-LAURENT, your bold efforts follow in the finest tradition of international cooperation and promise to yield a new understanding of our world.

Much of humanity imagines the top of the earth to be a vast wasteland—cold and barren. But your courageous work confirms that the Arctic is, indeed, a wellspring of scientific opportunities. The results of your research will give us a greater understanding of our planet's fragile environment and challenge us to better protect it.

I am pleased to commend all of you for coming together across lines of nationality in the name of scientific achievement. On behalf of all who will benefit from your efforts, I thank you and wish you a safe journey home.

Bill Clinton
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Ottawa, Canada

Summer 1994

Congratulations on your achievement in reaching the North Pole. Your arrival marks several great accomplishments.

The Louis St. Laurent and the Polar Sea are the first ships to reach the Pole over this, the longest and most difficult route through the Arctic Ocean. Those scientists and mariners from the Russian Federation, Sweden and Germany who have preceded you to the North Pole have done so over other routes and will undoubtedly be interested in hearing your experiences as well as applauding your feat.

You have demonstrated the strength of partnership between Canada and the U.S. Your close cooperation succeeded not only in breaking through daunting physical barriers, but also in acquiring new levels of scientific knowledge on the world's least explored ocean.

The information you have already collected will occupy laboratories, scientists and marine engineers in our countries for years to come. This material, together with the data you will gather on your return voyage will bring us to a closer understanding of our marine environment and its impact on the world.

I join Canadians everywhere in praise of your success. We wish you continued safe passage and look forward to hearing all that you have learned during your expedition.

Jean Chretien
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

Commandant, United States Coast Guard
Washington, District of Columbia

August 22, 1994

BRAVO ZULU ON REACHING 90 DEGREES NORTH

To the officers and crew of USCGC POLAR SEA and on behalf of your fellow officers and enlisted members of the United States Coast Guard, please accept my hearty congratulations on your historic achievement of being the first United States surface ship to ever reach 90 degrees North.

With your outstanding accomplishment constitutes a proud moment in the history of our nation. Moreover, you have secured for yourselves a special place in the annals of the United States Coast Guard. From now on, you will be listed among the crews of other celebrated Coast Guard cutters such as the MASSACHUSETTS, the CAMPBELL and, of course, the famed Arctic cutter, the BEAR, under command of the venerable "Iron" Mike Healey for whom our next polar icebreaker will be named.

My personal thanks and "Bravo Zulu" to each of you for your skill and professionalism that created this momentous event, and for proving once again that the men and women of the United States Coast Guard stand Semper Paratus—Always Ready to serve whenever and, certainly, wherever they may be needed.

Admiral Robert E. Kramek

Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard
Ottawa, Ontario

October 5, 1994

Dear Admiral Kramek:

It is with great pleasure I formally commend members of the United States Coast Guard for their outstanding contribution in the successful completion of the Canada/US polar mission.

The USCG Polar Sea and the CCGS Louis S. St-Laurent completed a remarkable voyage of scientific discovery. Indeed, the data gathered will be very useful to clarify the role of the Arctic Ocean in terms of overall global change. Moreover, the trip itself stands out in historical terms as being the first complete surface crossing of the Arctic Ocean. The knowledge gained regarding how ships may travel safely in the Arctic will be extremely valuable for future marine expeditions.

Given the scope of these achievements, I have granted official recognition to the complements of both ships, through the issue of the CCGC Commendation. The award to the USCG Polar Sea has been granted for "exceptional contribution in the field of marine transportation, especially where the contribution furthers the objectives of the Canadian Coast Guard." As you may be aware, CCG Captain Phil Grandy presented the commendation to the crew when the Polar Sea arrived in Boston on September 10, 1994. It is my hope that the Commendation pin will be worn proudly by her officers and crew.

In closing, I would also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the USCG Arctic Service Medal which was presented to all crew members of the "Louis" on August 22, 1994. The award is greatly appreciated by all who served aboard the ship and will serve to commemorate a most memorable voyage. Truly, the exchange of these Canadian and American honours is a befitting acknowledgment of the excellent "esprit de corps" and mutual esteem, which traditionally exist between both Coast Guards.

Kindest regards.

John F. Thomas