

**Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation
Washington, District of Columbia**

August 24, 1994

CG POLAR SEA REACHES NORTH POLE

To the officers and crew of the Coast Guard Cutter POLAR SEA. On behalf of Secretary Pena, I am pleased to congratulate you on your remarkable achievement of becoming the first U. S. surface vessel to reach the North Pole. It is a feat that few can claim, and will surely be recorded as one of the finest moments in Coast Guard History.

The significance of your accomplishment goes beyond the history you made upon reaching the Pole. It also holds far-reaching possibilities in terms of scientific discovery. The research you have conducted and the data you have collected since departing Nome, Alaska on 24 July will chart our planet's way into the future. I proudly salute your determination and "Can-Do" spirit.

Best wishes from the entire Department of Transportation for a safe and speedy return.

Mortimer L. Downey,
Acting Secretary of Transportation

**Commander, United States Coast Guard Pacific Area
Alameda, California**

August 22, 1994

POLAR SEA ARRIVAL AT THE NORTH POLE

Congratulations on your historic achievement as the first U. S. surface ship to transit to the North Pole.

By this accomplishment POLAR SEA has continued a long-standing tradition of successful polar operations which began 110 years ago when the BEAR sailed North into the ice to rescue the Lady Franklin Expedition. Your efforts thus far on AOS-94 have greatly increased our store of scientific knowledge of this remote region of the world and have reaffirmed the U. S. commitment as a polar nation. You and your crew are to be commended for your dedication, perseverance and professionalism.

I wish continued success for POLAR SEA, LOUIS S. ST-LAURENT and the science teams participating in AOS-94.

Bravo Zulu.

Vice Admiral Richard D. Herr

**Commander, United States Coast Guard Atlantic Area
New York, New York**

August 24, 1994

POLAR SEA OPERATIONS

Congratulations on your wonderful accomplishment! We sailors watch with envy your superb seamanship and the great success you have had in representing the United States Coast Guard and the Nation. Your efforts have helped demonstrate an often unsung mission of the Coast Guard. This is especially true when many Coast Guard personnel and the accompanying media coverage are concentrated on our work in the Caribbean and southern Florida.

Good luck in your continued research with the LOUIS S. ST-LAURENT. I am confident your joint efforts will help push Arctic and Marine knowledge far past its current level.

If your crew doesn't desert you to take jobs at Santa's Workshop, I recommend a southerly heading on departure.

Vice Admiral James Loy

**Director of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation
Arlington, Virginia**

August 29, 1994

Gentlemen:

Please accept my congratulations on being the first North American vessels to reach the Pole. Please congratulate your first class crews on a job well done.

My colleagues in Polar Programs and I wish you, your crews and your scientists safe homeward journeys.

We have been following the Science reports from Chief Scientists Drs. Knut Aagaard and Eddy Carmack with great interest. Please convey our highest regards and congratulations to them and their colleagues for the gold mine of information and new understanding of the important Ocean which they will bring back.

Sincerely,

Cornelius W. Sullivan