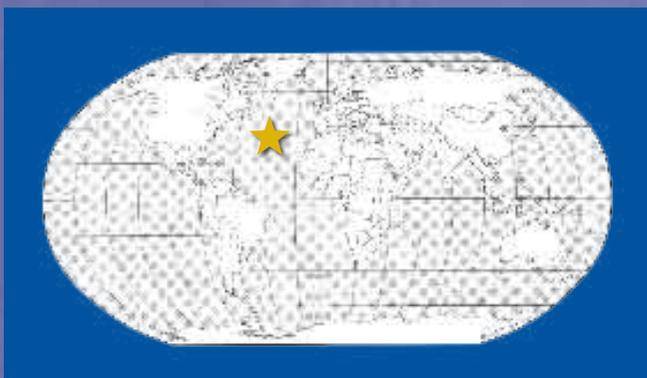




Elmer Fowler Stone

Lieutenant
Class of 1913



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Navy Cross Medal to
Lieutenant Elmer Fowler Stone
United States Coast Guard**

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

The Navy Cross is awarded to Lieutenant Elmer Fowler Stone, United States Coast Guard, for distinguished service in the line of his profession as pilot of seaplane NC-4, in making the first successful transatlantic flight.

Further described in the following Summary:

Known as the Father of Coast Guard aviation, and commissioned just ten years after the Wright brothers sponsored the birth of aviation, Lieutenant Stone helped bring the idea of a “flying lifeboat” to the attention of the upper echelons in Washington. By the spring of 1916, the Commandant, Captain Ellsworth P. Bertholf, had joined the effort, initiated by LT Stone, and was pushing for Congress to authorize the establishment of an “Aerial Coast Patrol.” Subsequently, Stone was assigned to the NC Seaplane Squadron to help with a plan the Navy developed, to make the very first transatlantic crossing by an airplane. In May of 1919, the NC Seaplane Squadron was ready, with LT Stone being the only Coast Guard member. As pilot of NC-4, LT Stone ended up as the only one to actually complete the crossing.

After this historic transit, he was from then on simply referred to as Coast Guard Aviator Number 1. He died from natural causes while on active duty as a Commander.
