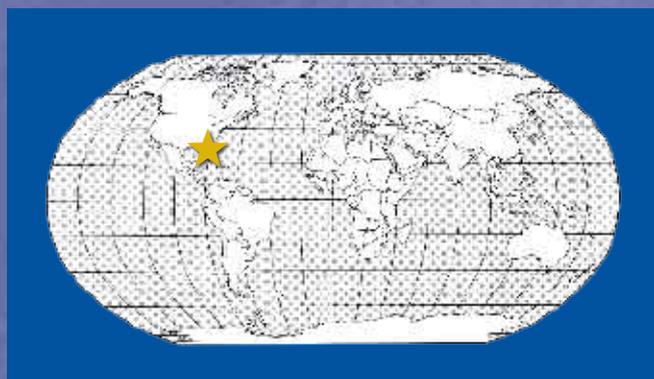




**Carl C. Von Paulsen**  
Lieutenant Commander  
Class of 1913



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**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting  
the Gold Lifesaving Medal to  
Lieutenant Commander Carl C. Von Paulsen  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

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For service as set forth in the following Summary:

Around 11:30 AM on 1 January 1933, The Coast Guard Air Station at Miami, Fl received a request for assistance from the Chester shoals Coast Guard Station. A man named Paul Long had been blown offshore in a skiff just inside Cape Canaveral at 10:00 pm the previous night. The Arcturus, piloted by LCDR Von Paulsen, proceeded to Cape Canaveral through rainy, squally weather. The Arcturus circled widely looking for the craft, but saw none. The crew lightened the plane by dumping the surplus fuel. A landing was made on a sea whose waves were at least 12 feet high, twice as high as the seaplane was designed to land upon. Impact with the water caused the lift wing tip float struts to collapse, leaving the float banging against the wing. All the men were ordered to ride on the wing in an extremely precarious position, in an attempt to maintain an even keel. At times they became semi-conscious from inhaling gasoline and tetrachloride fumes. An attempt was made to take off, but it was found to be impossible to keep the damaged wing level. A second landing was made that wrinkled the hull under the forward spar. An unsuccessful effort was made to taxi to shore. The engines were then stopped and the sea anchor was pulled out. The sea anchor line was carried away and the anchor lost. After an SOS call had been sent out another anchor was improvised and a pole antenna was rigged. The plane then continued to drift until 1:00 am when it was passed through three lines of surf and beached inside of Bethel Shoal. The crew went ashore and were shortly afterward located by US Customs Border patrolmen.

Lieutenant Commander Von Paulsen was a Coast Guard aviation pioneer and an accomplished Cutterman. Lieutenant Commander Von Paulsen retired at the rank of Captain.

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