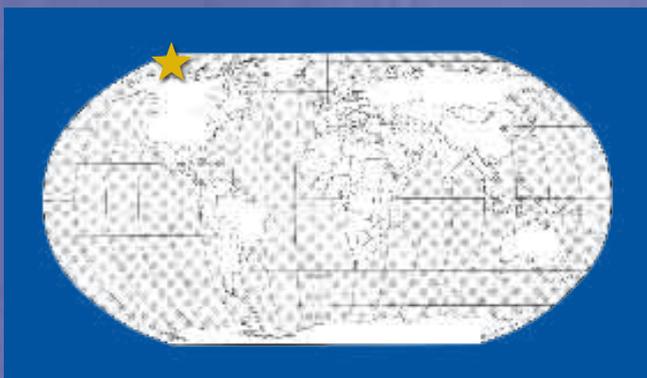




**Ellsworth P. Bertholf**

Lieutenant  
Class of 1887



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**The Congress of the United States takes pleasure in presenting  
the Congressional Gold Medal to  
Lieutenant Ellsworth P. Bertholf  
United States Revenue Cutter Service**

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For service as set forth in the following letter from Congress:

It affords me great pleasure to forward to you herewith the Gold Medal recommended by President William McKinley, and ordered by the unanimous vote of the Congress of the United States in recognition of your heroic services as one of the three officers of the Revenue Cutter Service who composed the Overland Expedition to Point Barrow, Arctic Ocean, for the relief of imperiled whalers. The conditions which confronted you throughout that four months' march beginning the 16th day of December, 1897, were full of difficulty, discouragement and ever present danger, but you and your gallant comrades, Lieutenant D. H. Jarvis and Surgeon Samuel J. Call, prosecuted your journey and fulfilled your mission undaunted and undeterred.

The estimation and appreciation in which your great services were and are held, cannot be better expressed than in the language of President McKinley in his Special Message to Congress, under the date of January 17, 1899, wherein he said: "The hardships and perils encountered by the members of the overland expedition in their great journey through the almost uninhabited region, a barren waste of ice and snow, facing death itself every day for nearly four months, over a route never before traveled by white men, with no refuge but at the end of the journey, carrying relief and cheer to 275 distressed citizens of our country, all make another glorious page in the history of American seamen. They reflect by their heroic and gallant struggles the highest credit upon themselves and the Government, which they faithfully served. I commend this heroic crew to the grateful consideration of Congress and the American people."

Lieutenant Bertholf later became the first Commandant of the newly formed United States Coast Guard in 1915.

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