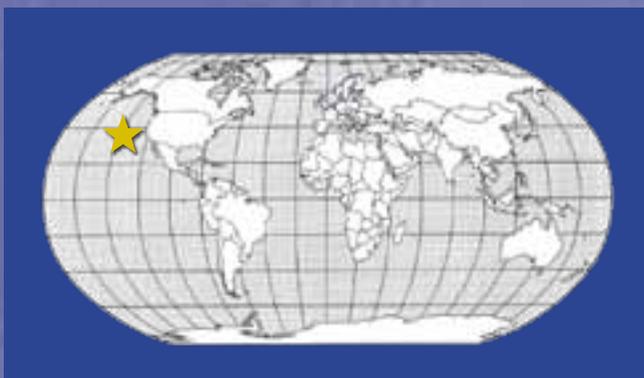


William K. Earle

Captain
Class of 1940



The President of the United States takes pleasure in recognizing the meritorious accomplishments of
Captain William K. Earle, Commanding Officer
USCGC PONTCHARTRAIN
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

For service as set forth in the following summary of action:

For meritorious service on 16 October 1956 in rescuing every person aboard Pan American Clipper 10943, while Commanding Officer of the PONTCHARTRAIN on patrol at Ocean Station November, after receiving an emergency call from the Clipper stating that one of her engines was running away. The plane requested continuous radio-beacon service, and later announced her intention to ditch alongside PONTCHARTRAIN. Ditching procedures worked with textbook precision, marking a safe ditch heading with fire-fighting and the Clipper's tail section was severed from the main body within three minutes of impact on the sea. PONTCHARTRAIN quickly maneuvered into position and removed the twenty four passengers and seven crew-members in less than twenty minutes before the aircraft sank. The seamanship, teamwork and rescue techniques performed with efficiency are commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

Captain Earle continued his seagoing career, later assuming the role as Head of Professional Studies at the Coast Guard Academy and Commanding Officer of USCG Barque EAGLE. Upon retirement, Captain Earle continued to influence the Coast Guard by serving as Executive Director of the Alumni Association and Editor of The Bulletin. The Annual Cadet Creative Writing Contest is named in his honor.