



John A. Pritchard

Lieutenant
Class of 1938

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Navy And Marine Corps Medal posthumously to
Lieutenant John A. Pritchard, Jr
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

For heroic conduct while serving aboard the U.S.C.G.C. NORTHLAND during the rescue of November 23, 1942, of three members of the Royal Canadian Air Force stranded on the Greenland Ice Cap for thirteen days. Volunteering to lead a rescue party from the ship, Lieutenant Pritchard proceeded with his men by motor launch on the fringe of heavy ice, close aboard the glacier outlet to the bay and, fully aware of the ever present danger of calving Anoretok Glacier, landed on the shore. Accompanied by his men, he daringly worked his way up a mountainside to the glacier and established contact with the marooned airmen by lights and voice. Realizing that speed was imperative, he and his party pressed on, crossing several hundred yards of heavily crevassed area after dark in order to reach the exhausted fliers and finally succeeded in bringing them safely to the ship. Lieutenant Pritchard's intelligent planning, fearless leadership and great personal valor aided materially in the gallant rescue of the stranded men and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

