



Edward H. Smith

Rear Admiral
Class of 1913



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Distinguished Service Medal to
Rear Admiral Edward H. Smith
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

For service as set forth in the following citation:

For exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States in a duty of great responsibility as Commander of the Greenland Patrol and later as Commander of a Task force in the Atlantic Fleet from December 1941, to November 1944. During the critical years of 1942 and 1943, Rear Admiral Smith planned, built, organized and efficiently administered the naval bases and stations in Greenland and in the Arctic for the support of the Army in those areas and the Naval control of the North Atlantic. Under extremely difficult conditions, the forces of his command successfully operated patrols and escorts, maintained a system of weather stations and provided full logistic and tactical support for the Army. As Commander of a Task force in these strategic waters, he skillfully directed vital weather, patrol and escort services which were of inestimable assistance in connection with the ferrying of aircraft and the operation of transport planes to and from the European theaters of war and effectively protected valuable convoys. In all his negotiations and contacts, Rear Admiral Smith distinguished himself by his splendid diplomacy, sound judgment and intelligent planning and consistently maintained excellent relations with other United States forces and those of the Allied Nations. His superior tactical knowledge and steadfast devotion to duty throughout these important years were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Rear Admiral "Iceberg" Smith later commanded the Coast Guard's Eastern Area and Third District before retiring after 40 years of service.
