

NORTHWIND HAS REPEATEDLY DISTINGUISHED HERSELF OVER THE YEARS. IN 1948, SHE SERVED AS A "FLOATING COURT" FOR A FEDERAL JUDGE WHILE DELIVERING MEDICAL AND DENTAL AID TO FIFTY-FOUR ALEUTION VILLAGES. IN 1952 SHE BROKE THE POLAR ICE-BREAKING RECORD FOR MILES SAILED NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE IN ONE SEASON...10,029 MILES (16,140 KM). SHE WAS THE FIRST SHIP TO BREAK INTO THULE, GREENLAND AS EARLY AS 28 MAY, EVEN THOUGH THULE IS USUALLY ICE-LOCKED UNTIL WELL INTO THE SUMMER. IN 1965 SHE EARNED A COMMENDATION FOR HER RESCUE OF THE SWEDISH MERCHANT VESSEL ORION WHILE IN FORTY-FOOT (12.3M) SEAS, ONE OF THE EIGHT COMMENDATIONS SHE WAS EARNED TO DATE. WHILE ESCORTING THE MANHATTAN IN 1969, NORTHWIND BECAME THE FIRST SHIP TO TRANSIT THE FABLED NORTHWEST PASSAGE EASTWARD AND WESTWARD IN A SINGLE SEASON. IN 1970, SHE BETTERED BY NINE MILES (14.4KM) THE SURFACE VESSEL RECORD FOR PENETRATION INTO ARCTIC WINTER ICE. NORTHWIND IS ALSO CREDITED WITH BEING THE FIRST U. S. COAST GUARD ICEBREAKER TO MAKE A NARCOTICS SEIZURE; THE SEIZURE OCCURRED DURING A LAW ENFORCEMENT PATROL IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA IN 1985. IN OCT 1988, NORTHWIND COMPLETED HER LAST PATROL, ARCTIC EAST SUMMER 1988 DEPLOYMENT. WITH THE COMPLETION OF HER LAST PATROL, NORTHWIND IS BEING READIED FOR DECOMMISSIONING ON JANUARY 20TH 1989. THE DECOMMISSIONING OF NORTHWIND WILL BRING AN END TO A LONG AND ILLUSTRIOUS CARRIER.

NORTHWIND WAS HOMEPORTED FOR HER FIRST TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. SHE WAS THEN MOVED TO CURTIS BAY, MARYLAND IN 1973 WHERE SHE UNDERWENT EXTENSIVE MACHINERY MODERNIZATION AND ELECTRONIC MODIFICATIONS. IN 1978, NORTHWIND WAS MOVED TO WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA. THE DILIGENCE 1, ONE OF THE INITIAL TEN CUTTERS OF THE REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE (THE FORERUNNER OF TODAY'S U. S. COAST GUARD) WAS HOMEPORTED IN WILMINGTON. IT BEGAN AN ASSOCIATION BETWEEN WILMINGTON AND THE COAST GUARD WHICH NORTHWIND CONTINUES TODAY.