

Navy Department,  
December 9th, 1839.

SIR,

The Department has observed in the newspapers a notice of your gallant and successful efforts in rescuing a portion of the crew of the Chilian sloop-of-war Monteguedo, which, it appears, was wrecked in the harbour of Valparaiso, during the gale of the 24th and 25th of July last.

Although you have already enjoyed the highest reward of your exertions, in the success which crowned them, it would not do justice to its own feelings, did it refrain from expressing to you its admiration of the fearless self-devotion displayed by you on that occasion, and which is alike honourable to yourself, to the service, and to your country.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. K. PAULDING.

LIEUTENANT T. T. CRAVEN,  
*United States Exploring Expedition.*

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GENERAL ORDER.

THE undersigned, commanding the Exploring Expedition, has deferred acknowledging the great gratification he has received from the reports of the commanders of the different vessels respecting the officers and crews, during their late arduous cruise, and takes this opportunity, not only to offer them his thanks, but to assure them that he has duly represented the same to the government; and feels great confidence that in the coming service they will show an equal alacrity and obedience to their officers, and a determination to carry out the views of the government and the country.

CHARLES WILKES,  
*Commanding Exploring Expedition.*

U. S. Ship Vincennes,  
June 15th, 1839.