

# Cape Hatteras National Seashore



# **Richard Etheridge** **From Slave to Saver of Lives**

Born a slave, Etheridge distinguished himself not only as a Union army sergeant (36th USCT), but also later, in 1880, as the first African-American to command a US Lifesaving Station. His Pea Island Station crew was known as one of the best in the country, and Etheridge as one of the Service's most courageous lifesavers.

**To learn more, visit:** [www.nps.gov/caha](http://www.nps.gov/caha)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**