

MA WWII MEMORIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(L) Capt. George Street, MA Sr. Naval Officer
Massachusetts WWII Memorial Committee
Congressional Medal of Honor Society

(center) Sgt. Charlie MacGillivray, US ARMY
Massachusetts WWII Memorial Committee
Congressional Medal of Honor Society

(R) Capt. Ed Sullivan, MA Field Representative
MA National WWII Memorial Committee

Sgt. Charlie MacGillivray was presented a signed copy of the Merchant Marine Bible, "A Carless Word a Needless Sinking" at Brockton VA Hospital upon Capt. Sullivan's return from the author Capt. Arthur Moore was convalescing at his home in Hallowell, Maine. Charlie MacGillivray entered the Port of Boston a merchant marine, and departed An Army soldier with an assignment to fight at the Battle of the Bulge.

Capt. Sullivan, the volunteer Massachusetts WWII Memorial Committee Field Representative received words of wisdom from MA Executive Committee member Capt. Tom Hudner who stood Capt. Street's watch and read his reading at the WWII Interfaith Memorial at the Old North Church. Capt. Hudner gave an insightful reminder that the gift as a volunteer on the WWII Memorial Committee was the honor to say farewell to Capt. Street and Sgt. MacGillivray.

Cong. Moakley's orders at his last speech to MA veterans was "to reserve the seats at the table of honor" beside him and Capt. Tom Kelley in the name of our friends Capt. George Street & Sgt. Charlie MacGillivray. Cong. Moakley's gift was a front row seat to watch the greatest veterans agent in Massachusetts history Capt. Tom Kelley give the "Sgt. Charlie MacGillivray Address." on Veterans Day!



George Street was born in Richmond, Virginia on July 27, 1913. As a teenager George joined the Naval Reserve in 1931 and was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1933. Ensign Street graduated from Annapolis in 1937. It's important to note Capt. Street has slipped through the cracks of Massachusetts football history in that Midshipman George Street served as varsity cheerleader for the Naval Midshipman football team. As a young naval academy cadet George Street proudly cheered on the play of the "thundering hoofs of Annapolis" football squad who annually battled in the Army-Navy game. With Midshipman Street leading the charge from the Navy sidelines the team kicked off the season with a 45-0 win over William & Mary. George Street's senior season at the Academy got even better with George rooting from the sidelines Navy crushed rivals the Citadel 32-0. The cheerleader who would have a squadron of submarine's called "Street's Sweepers" named to honor his leadership cheered on a victory over Virginia 48-13 keeping an undefeated season going. Then came along Harvard football in Massachusetts. Midshipman Street cheered Navy to a 0-0 tie with Harvard. It was the following game with at Notre Dame when George Street cheered his Navy team to an admirable 2 point loss to Notre Dame 7 – 9 ending Capt. Street's senior season winning streak. Capt. Street also served with aggressive prowess on the Academy Sailing team. After serving in gunnery & communications young Lt. Street made a life altering decision when he volunteered for the Submarine School at New London, Connecticut. After graduation Capt. Street served 3 years on the USS Gar. Gunnery & Torpedo Officer Street was part of the original crew that commissioned the USS Gar from the shipyard. Street rose to 1st Lieutenant & Torpedo Data Computer Operator to finally as Executive Officer and Navigator of the USS Gar. While serving on the USS Gar Capt. Street made 9 war patrols and received 2 Silver Stars "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving aboard the USS Gar."

An important date in recalling the life of Capt. Street was June 6, 1944, the day he reported for duty aboard the USS Tirante. Capt. Street's 1st command with the US Navy! Capt. Street commissioned the ship in November 1944 with a shakedown cruise along Long Island Sound which expanded to waters off Panama, and Hawaii. It would begin one of the most distinguished naval careers of a US Naval Officer. Capt. Street commenced his first patrol on March 3, 1945 entering shallow water off Kyushu island Japan close to shore Capt. Street found several ships. Westward off Kyushu island Tirante sank the 703 ton tanker Fuji Maru on March 25th 1945. 3 days later on March 28th Tirante sank the 1218 ton freighter Nase Maru which set off a group of Japanese escort ships to challenge Capt. Street's cunning operation of a naval submarine for 7 hours evading the enemy.

On March 31 Tirante sank a 70 ton Lugger Ship with 5 inch & 40 millimeter guns. On April 6th Capt. Street surfaced and showed compassion for 3 Japanese crew on an enemy fishing vessel and took them prisoner before sinking the vessel. The following day on April 7th Capt. Street ordered torpedo fire on a 2800 ton cargo freighter loaded with oil drums. On April 9th Capt. Street ordered 6 torpedoes fired one striking the 5500 ton transport Nikko Maru carrying Japanese soldiers home from Shanghai. As Tirante slept beneath the waves with enemy escort offensive, Capt. Street ordered a "cutie" fired hearing "breaking up noises" from the Japanese escort vessel falling off into the silence of the Pacific Ocean.

On April 15, 1945 Capt. Street of the USS Tirante made a bold decision based on naval intelligence and riding his submarine on the surface entered Cheju Harbor low on ammo and bold with courage. Capt. Street who late in life would attribute his executive decision to enter Cheju Harbor with just 7 torpedoes "as part of long held retribution by Annapolis Officers who were patient to give some payback for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor!"

Capt. George Street was awarded the Medal of Honor, and his Lt. Edward Beach Jr., was awarded the Navy Cross. Lt. Beach Jr., was the author of "Run Silent, Run Deep" that became a film with Clark Gable based on a sub commander like Capt. Street. Capt. Street's crew on the Tirante included Massachusetts Governor Endicott Peabody who were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Capt. George Street the highest decorated naval officer in Massachusetts considered his personal and most cherished award, the "Presidential Unit Citation," because it was shared with all the crew of the Tirante."

I am most proud to share with you in recalling the service of Capt. George Street is a remarkable fact that Capt. Street's valor in battle which earned him the Medal of Honor was replicated again 57 days later on June 12, 1945 when the USS Tirante under the command of Capt. Street carried out a repeat performance of Cheju Harbor with his hit and run raid on Ha Shima Harbor, about 7 miles from Nagasaki, Japan. Capt. Street lined up his periscope on the 2200 ton Hakuju Mary moored alongside a colliery and from a range of 1,000 yards ordered a "down the throat" torpedo fire which exploded the vessel with a roar with his 3rd torpedo finishing the destruction of the Maru. Capt. Street a seasoned submarine operator evaded the enemy shore guns and sped clear of the demolished Japanese port.

On July 9th Tirante destroyed two heavily armed picket boats with surface fire before returning to Guam on July 19th 1945. For this patrol Capt. Street was awarded the Navy Cross with the citation reading, "for extraordinary heroism," "for tracking his targets relentlessly," Capt. Street launched his smashing torpedo and gunfire attacks against hostile freighters, junks, and picket boats, sinking over 7000 tons of shipping vital to Japanese supplies."

As Tirante departed Guam on August 12th 1945 on what would have been her 3rd war patrol, the vessel's operation was cut short by the end of the war with the USS Tirante pulling into Midway on August 23rd 1945 ending prolific naval service in WWII.

Capt. Street who was promoted to Commander in July 1945 sailed the USS Tirante to the east coast and moored at the Washington Navy yard in October 1945, at which time Commander Street received the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony with President Harry Truman.

In January 1946 Commander Street left the command of Tirante to be the US Navy's technical advisor for the submarine documentary film "The Silent Service."

Capt. Street continued his naval service overseeing command of the Submarine Division 62 1952-1953 evaluating the use of several radar picket submarines working as a team.

Upon completion of classes at the National War College Capt. Street served the Staff to the Commander in Chief of the US Atlantic Fleet. In 1959 Capt. Street became the commanding officer and Professor of Naval Science at the MA Institute of Technology at Cambridge, MA. Capt. Street's final assignment in August 1964 was as Commander Submarine Group, San Francisco Bay Area and Commander Mare Island Group, Pacific reserve Fleet. Capt. Street retired from the U.S. Navy one of the most decorated naval officers in the history of modern warfare. Capt. Street retired in Andover, MA with his wife Mary Martha McKimmey, enjoying family gatherings with his daughter Christopher Street, and his son Capt. George Street IV US Army (Rt.). Capt. George Levick Street III passed away at Andover Nursing Home on Feb. 26, 2000. In keeping with his request half his cremated ashes were dispersed at sea from a submarine, and half were interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia on March 15, 2000.

Capt. George Street served on the executive committee of the MA National WWII Memorial Committee and supported the State of Massachusetts efforts "to do its part" to build the WWII Memorial on the National Mall.