

Allen, Charles

Capt. Charles Allen Awarded Gold Star For Heroic Service

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Superb skill, sound judgment and exemplary performance under fire have earned for Capt. Charles Allen, 49, USN, of Bethlehem, Pa., a Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit Medal, the Eleventh Naval District announced today.

Captain Allen received the high decoration at a mass presentation ceremony at the U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, Calif., with Capt. Jesse W. Allen, (MC) USN, medical officer in command, making the award.

Cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services to his government while serving as commanding officer of the USS James O'Hara during the amphibious assault on Sicily, Captain Allen was credited with superb skill and sound judgment in directing and planning the successful landing of embarked troops, vehicles and equipment on heavily defended invasion beaches.

"Throughout a critical period of persistent and vigorous bombing attacks, he gallantly fought with his ship, accomplished his mission and withdrew without serious casualty to his command," said the citation.

His mother, Mrs. Rosalie Allen, resides at 1823 Cloverleaf Street, Bethlehem. His wife, Mrs. Dorothy S. Allen, who now lives at 1351 Orange Avenue, Coronado, Calif., witnessed the ceremony.

Captain Allen now is resting at the San Diego hospital after a long series of overseas duties.

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