

washingtonpost.com Hello undefined codrea @ The Washington Post  
Print Edition | Sign Out | Subscribe

visit a branch or call 1-888-TOP-BANK

Certain restrictions apply. See branch for details.

Click Here for details

Provident BANK

Just the right size for you.

Member FDIC

Advertisement



Home of Our Lowest Rates



Reserve Now

NEWS | OPINIONS | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | DISCUSSIONS | PHOTOS & VIDEO | CITY GUIDE | CLASSIFIEDS | JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE | Shopping Deals

SEARCH: News Web results by Google | Search Archives

washingtonpost.com > Metro > Obituaries

Print This Article  
E-Mail This Article

Obituaries  
**George Codrea, 88; Navy Cross Recipient**

Advertisement



By Yvonne Shinhoster Lamb  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Friday, June 2, 2006; Page B06

Advertisement



George Codrea, 88, a career Marine officer who was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism in World War II and was a former high school government teacher in Alexandria, died May 20 at Inova Commonwealth Care Center in Fairfax of complications from a fall. He was a Falls Church resident.

RSS NEWS FEEDS

Top News  
Metro  
What is RSS? | All RSS Feeds

E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS

View a Sample and Sign Up  
Today's Headlines & Columnists  
Breaking News Alerts  
Manage Your Newsletters

After joining the Marine Corps in 1941, he was assigned as an infantry platoon leader with the 1st Marine Division and took part in the invasion of Guadalcanal, a Japanese-held island in the South Pacific, on Aug. 7, 1942. After two weeks of minor skirmishing, a Japanese infantry brigade attacked his battalion Aug. 21 in the battle of Tenaru River. The young second lieutenant held his ground, according to his Navy Cross citation.

"When it became necessary to reinforce the firing line during the heaviest fighting against a Japanese landing force of about 700 men, Second Lieutenant Codrea, coolly and with complete disregard for his own safety, placed each man, individually, in a position to deliver

SEARCH PAID DEATH NOTICES

To place a death notice call (202) 334-4122 or email [deathnotices@washpost.com](mailto:deathnotices@washpost.com). Please be sure to include your name, daytime phone number, address, method of payment, name of funeral home/crematory to contact for verification of death.

Search Death Notices:

Death notices are searchable for 90 days. Leave field blank and

the most effective fire," the citation states.

Despite being wounded twice early in the fighting, Lt. Codrea remained at the front until being ordered to be treated for wounds to his arm and back. "His outstanding leadership, determination and inspiring fortitude throughout the engagement were largely instrumental in stopping the most serious enemy threat," the citation states.

After surgery and recuperation in a hospital, he returned to Guadalcanal for the final four months of the campaign. His role in the battle was recounted in "Guadalcanal Diary" (1943) by Richard Tregaskis and "Bloody Ridge" (2000) by Michael Smith.

Subsequently, he saw action in the Cape Gloucester campaign during the 1943-44 battle for the island of New Britain in the South Pacific and also served in New Guinea. In the final months of the war, he was a battalion operations officer and regimental logistics officer with the 21st Marine Regiment training for the anticipated invasion of Japan.

Col. Codrea was born in Akron, Ohio, the eldest child of Romanian immigrants. He graduated with distinction from the University of Akron in 1940. After World War II, from 1946 to 1947, he was post adjutant and company commander at the Naval Gun Factory in Washington. In that role, he supervised security at the court-martial of U.S. Navy Capt. Charles B. McVay III, former commander of the ill-fated USS Indianapolis.

Col. Codrea also taught military science at Purdue University and served in the Korean War as an infantry officer, participating in the battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

After a six-month tour of the Mediterranean as commanding officer of an infantry battalion assigned to the U.S. Sixth Fleet, his final duty assignment was as a logistics liaison officer in the office of the chief of naval operations at the Pentagon. He retired in 1969.

Col. Codrea then taught government at Francis C. Hammond High School and economics and government at T.C. Williams High School in

Alexandria for 14 years until 1983.

In his later years, he researched and published articles on the experiences and contributions of early Romanian Americans, especially those who had served in the U.S. military. He also volunteered as a translator for Romanian visitors, immigrants and patients who came to the Washington area for medical treatment.

For his efforts, the president of Romania awarded Col. Codrea Romania's National Order for Merit in 2002.

Col. Codrea was a former member of Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church in Arlington. For 18 years, he belonged to St. Mary Orthodox Church in Falls Church, where he served on parish council.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Martha Codrea of Falls Church; a son, George Richard Codrea of Rockville; and a brother.

[Print This Article](#)   [E-Mail This Article](#)  
[Permission to Republish](#)