

Human Stories of the U.S. Coast Guard

CHARLES W. DAVID, JR.



African-American Stewards Mate First Class Charles Walter David, Jr., was a true Coast Guard hero who served on board the cutter Comanche during World War II. When Comanche came to the aid of the torpedoed army transport SS Dorchester off the coast of Greenland, David repeatedly dived overboard in the icy water to rescue its survivors. He even saved fellow crewman and Comanche executive officer, LT Langford Anderson, when exposure prevented Anderson from pulling himself out of the water. A few days later, David died of hypothermia contracted as a result of his rescue work and left behind a wife and young son. The navy posthumously awarded him the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his heroism.

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