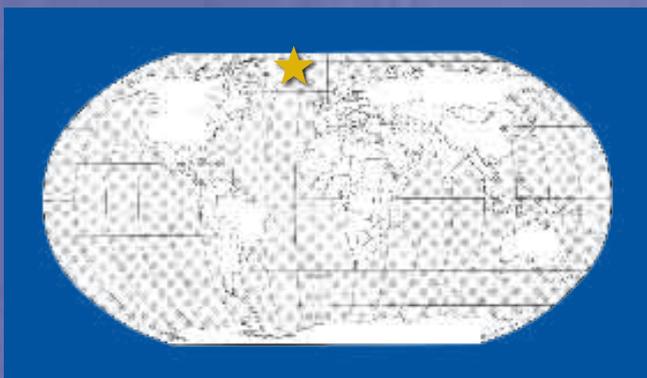




Kenneth C. Cowart

Commander
Class of 1926



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Silver Star Medal to
Commander Kenneth C. Cowart
United States Coast Guard**

For service as set forth in the following Summary:

In February 1943 Coast Guard Cutters Campbell and Spencer took over a 42-ship convoy escort to guard the convoy against “wolf packs” of German submarines attempting to cut off the flow of allied shipping. By February 21st, despite aggressive patrolling to keep them down, the convoy was surrounded by shadowing submarines, and the battle ensued. Campbell sank at least two submarines and helped drive off another six U-boats during the following night before being struck just under the bridge by another submarine, dragging its hydroplanes along the cutter’s hull, cutting a 15-foot gash in the cutter’s engine room below the water line. Campbell was able to get two depth charges dropped from the stern racks and followed with 32 rounds of three-inch, and ten magazines of 20-millimeter before the searchlight went out as the ship lost power from the flooding in her engine room, and began to drift helplessly in the darkness and six-foot seas. CDR Cowart led the damage control parties onboard Campbell as they worked furiously, often in water up to their waists to save the ship. Weight was jettisoned, hundreds of gallons of fuel pumped overboard, gun mounts cut away, and ammunition thrown overboard in an attempt to lighten ship and heel her over far enough to get at the hole in the hull. After a five-day tow, she arrived safely in port and was eventually repaired and lived to fight again.

Commander Cowart was later the Chief Engineer of the Coast Guard, and retired at the rank of Vice Admiral.
