

## In Memoriam

Addison Breckenridge Overstreet

December 28, 1915 – September 13, 1952

Hennepin County Bar Association  
District Court  
Fourth Judicial District  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

1953

Addison Breckenridge Overstreet was born on December 28, 1915 in Enderlin, North Dakota. He graduated from West High School in Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota, where he was a member of Psi U Fraternity. He obtained his BA degree from the University in 1937 and enrolled at the University of Minnesota Law School in that year. At the Law School Mr. Overstreet was a member of the Student Board of Editors of the Minnesota Law Review and a member of the Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity. He was graduated with an LLB degree in June of 1940 and was admitted to the Bar that year.

Immediately following his graduation from law school, Mr. Overstreet entered service with the Marine Corps and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on August 29, 1940. He served in Iceland with the Sixth Marine Regiment from May of 1941 to March of 1942, when the Sixth Regiment was returned to this country preparatory to service in the South Pacific. In June of 1943 Mr. Overstreet, then a Captain, sailed with the Ninth Marine Regiment to New Zealand. In October of 1943, Captain Overstreet participated in the landing at Bougainville and the combat there.

In April of 1944, Mr. Overstreet, then a Major, was assigned to the post of G-1 of the First Provisional Marine Brigade. In that post he had the important duty of helping to organize the Brigade and to ready it quickly for combat. In commending Major Overstreet's services in connection with the organization of the Brigade, a citation from General Shepard, presently the Commandant of the Marine Corps, reads as follows:

"At the time of joining the Brigade Major Overstreet was confronted with the problem of organizing this newly formed organization into a coordinated tactical and administrative unit and the simultaneous problem of preparing for the then pending Guam operation. In the short time allowed him, Major Overstreet, with insufficient and inexperienced assistance, cleared the administrative confusion in which he found the Brigade. He simultaneously assisted in the preparation of plans for the pending operation and supervised the concurrent embarkation of troops. During the Guam operation he exerted tireless efforts to achieve accurate accounting of casualties and performed the other duties normally attributed to G-1 in a more than

satisfactory manner. The position which he so capably performed with the Brigade was, by the table of organization established that command, authorized an officer of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.”

For his services in the Guam operation he was awarded the Bronze Silver Star, the citation reading in part as follows:

“During operations on Guam, Major Overstreet demonstrated outstanding personal courage and ability in the establishment, frequently under fire, of the forward element of the brigade administrative details, all of which contributed materially to the successful operation. His courage and unusual ability were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

Following the end of the Guam operation, Major Overstreet was given the post of G-1 of the newly formed Sixth Marine Division, despite the fact that the table of organization called for officer of the rank of full colonel for that position. He then served with the Sixth Division on Okinawa. For his services there he was awarded the Legion of Merit and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Bronze Star, the citation reading in part as follows:

“Firm meritorious achievement in connection with operations against the enemy while serving as a personnel officer of a Marine division during the planning for and conduct of operations on Okinawa from 1 April to 21 June, 1945. During the preparatory phase, Major Overstreet, by virtue of this keen analytical mind and his demonstrated excellent judgment, rendered invaluable assistance in advising the Commanding General on personnel matters. Displaying superior professional ability, he, in addition to the normal administrative duties, executed the gigantic task of the administrative activation of the division and organization of its new units; prepared Standard Operating Procedures on all administrative matters; organized and instituted a comprehensive system of casualty reporting.”

Following the operation, he was recommended for a spot position to Lieutenant Colonel. Those who know the Marine Corps know that such recommendations are rarely made, and only for outstanding achievement.

Mr. Overstreet was discharged from active service with the Marine Corps on October 16, 1945, and became associated with the firm of Mosley, Cant, Taylor, Haverstock and Beardsley. He was married on the October 25, 1946, to Katherine Ann Mordaunt. He practiced law with distinction, until following the outbreak of the Korean War, he was recalled to active duty with the Marine Corps on the August 1, 1950.

During his second period of active duty, he served with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on General Shepard's staff, General Shepard then being the commanding General of the fleet Marine Force, Pacific with headquarters at Pearl Harbor. Thus his second period of service was spent largely in the Hawaiian Islands, except for accompanying General Shepard on two inspection trips to Korea.

Following his discharge from active duty on February 8, 1952, he returned to practice with the same firm. After a short illness, his death occurred on September 13, 1952. He left surviving his widow and three daughters, his mother and step-father, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Taylor, and a sister, Mrs. Frederick M. Lege III.

In the opinion of those who knew him, Breck Overstreet was a person of the highest standards as well as outstanding ability. It was a tribute to his gift of friendship that six of his closest friends in the Marine Corps flew here to attend his funeral. He is greatly missed by all his friends.



# Appendix

Home / Awards / ADDISON OVERSTREET

## Addison B. Overstreet

AWARDS BY DATE OF ACTION:

1 of 1

### Legion of Merit

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS  
DURING World War II

Service: Marine Corps

GENERAL ORDERS:

Heroes U.S. Marine Corps, 1861 - 1955: Jane Blakeney

CITATION:

(Citation Needed) - SYNOPSIS: Addison B. Overstreet (MCSN: 0-6827), United States Marine Corps, was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States in the Pacific Theater of Operations during the period from 1 January through 21 June 1945.

[SEE MORE RECIPIENTS OF THIS AWARD](#)



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