

Charles W. Morgan (1790 – 5 Jan 1853)

The Evening Star, January 6, 1853, p. 3

Commodore C.W. Morgan died yesterday morning at his residence in the Navy Yard of which place he was in command. In some of the most sanguinary actions during the last war with England, Commodore Morgan was distinguished by his bravery. He has been forty-five years in the service of his country, and died respected and esteemed by all who knew him. The flags on the United States steamers in the river, and those at the Navy Yard and the Garrison were half-mast, and orders issued by the Department for the observance of the usual testimonials of respect. Commodore M. was buried this afternoon from his late residence at three o'clock.

The National Intelligencer, January 6, 1853

Death of Commodore Morgan

It is with painful regret that we have to announce the death of the gallant and veteran Commodore Charles W. Morgan, of the United States Navy. He expired at his official residence, in command of the Washington Navy Yard, yesterday morning, after a lingering and painful illness, aged sixty three years.

Commodore Morgan entered the Navy in 1808, and was excelled in courage and activity by no one of the brave young spirits who bore a part in the glorious naval actions of the war of 1812-15. Though very young, he distinguished himself in the action between the United States frigate Constitution, and his Britannic Majesty's frigate Guerrier, the most important naval engagement during the war. Twice appointed to command the United States naval forces in the Mediterranean, he discharged his duty in these important trusts with honor to himself and advantage to his country. He governed those under his orders not by operating on their fears, but by well-directed efforts to elevate them in their own estimation, by reasonable indulgences, and the dispensation of equal justice.

Commodore Morgan was a native of Virginia, a nephew of his illustrious namesake, the brave Gen. Morgan, of the Revolutionary army; and in all the qualities of a gallant and noble officer and gentleman, he was worthy of his blood and of his chivalric profession. He has left a devoted wife and two sons to mourn his loss, and, as he was esteemed and respected by all who knew him, his death will be lamented by all with whom he ever served, from the highest to the humblest.

The Funeral of the late Commodore Morgan will take place this afternoon from the Navy Yard, at half past 3 o'clock precisely. The following officers will act as pallbearers:

Com. Shubrick	Gen. Henderson, M.C.
Com. Skinnner	Capt. Terrett, M.C.
Com. Smith	Gen. Totten
Capt. Montgomery	Col. Albert

Officers of the Army and Navy and the friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral.

The Evening Star, January 7, 1853

The Funeral of Commodore Morgan took place yesterday afternoon at the appointed hour, from his late residence at the Navy Yard, with the usual honors. Minute guns were fired during the passage of the body to the Congress burial ground. A strong corps of Marines escorted the remains, which were also attended by the officers of the Navy and Marine corps. The pallbearers consisted of the officers named in yesterday's paper.

Dictionary of American Biography

Charles W. Morgan, naval officer born in Virginia in 1790; died in Washington, D.C., January 3, 1853. Entered the Navy as midshipman, January 1, 1808. He was commissioned Lieut., March 3, 1813, commander April 15, 1820 and captain February 21, 1831. While he was Lieut. he served on the 'Constitution' during her cruise in 1812 when she fought the 'Guerriere' and 'Java.' For his gallantry in these engagements he was presented with a sword by the legislature of Virginia. In 1841-43 he was in command of the Mediterranean squadron.