

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors

NORBERT MARK LABRAYERE

UNITED STATES NAVY
BOATSWAIN'S MATE
SECOND CLASS (BM2C)

APRIL 1, 1941– AUGUST 9, 1942

KILLED IN ACTION

as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT NOVEMBER 2025

Donna Sandegren, Honoring Her Granduncle's Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Troy Chapter, NSDAR



Norbert Mark LaBrayere was born on October 11, 1915, in St Louis, Missouri. He was the son of Mark Anton LaBrayere and Josephine Mary Strunk. He was the fifth of eight children. He was called Dick by the family.

Norbert first enlisted in the Navy in 1934 and served until 1939. After a short time working for the Wagner Electric Company, he re-enlisted in April 1941. He was assigned to the USS Quincy (CA-39) as a Boatswain's Mate. He was part of the Neutrality Operations in the North Atlantic in 1941, the Guadalcanal Campaign in 1942, and the Battle of Savo Island in 1942.

On August 9, 1942, USS Quincy (CA-39), along with sister ships USS Astoria (CA-34) and USS Vincennes (CA-44), had seen aircraft flares dropped over other ships in the task force, and had just sounded general quarters and was coming alert when the searchlights from the Japanese column came on. Quincy's captain, Samuel N. Moore, gave the order to commence firing, but the gun crews were not ready. Within a few minutes, Quincy was caught in a crossfire between Aoba, Furutaka, and Tenryu, and was hit heavily and set afire. Quincy's captain ordered the cruiser to charge toward the eastern Japanese column, but as she turned to do so, Quincy was hit by two torpedoes from Tenryu, causing severe damage. Quincy managed to fire a few main gun salvos, one of which hit Chokai's chart room 6 meters (20 ft) from Admiral Mikawa and killed or wounded 36 men, although Mikawa was not injured. At 2:10 a.m., incoming shells killed or wounded almost all of Quincy's bridge crew, including the captain. At 2:16 a.m., the cruiser was hit by a torpedo from Aoba, and the ship's remaining guns were silenced. Quincy sustained many direct hits, which left 370 men dead and 167 wounded. She sank, bow first, at 2:38 a.m., being the first ship sunk in the area which was later known as Ironbottom Sound.

BM2 LaBrayere was among the men listed as missing in action and later declared dead on August 10, 1943. He was given the following decorations: Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Europe/African/Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Asiatic/Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Norbert Mark LaBrayere was memorialized at the Manila American Cemetery, Tablets of the Missing-United States Navy-Missing In Action, Manila, Philippines.