BY GEORGE MORAITIS

All my life I have walked, run, and driven from my home to town and back and passed Admiral George Dewey and Olympia streets off Hallock Avenue and in my adult life, I finally realized what I was passing. When you put the names of these streets together, you will see that they are for Admiral George W. Dewey and his naval ship, Olympia.

I wanted to learn more about him so I purchased two books, "The Life Story of Admiral Dewey: The World-Painted Victory at Manila and The Triumphant Return to America," by Edward S. Ellis, and "Admiral George Dewey: A Sketch of the Man," by John Barrett. There are also many other works written about him. This is an article on how proud this area was of him to name four streets in his honor.

George W. Dewey was born December 26, 1837 in Montpelier, Vermont. He was the son of Dr. Julius and Mary Dewey and a direct descendant of a long family line dating back to the early 1600s when early settlers came from England. He entered the Naval Academy September 23, 1854, graduating near the top of his class. After the Navy attached him to the frigate Wabash in the Mediterranean, as a midshipman, he was again the top of his class on passing his final examination. He moved quickly through the ranks of the Navy. In 1862, at the age of 25, Dewey became a lieutenant on board the USS "Wabash." In the Philippine Islands, he served in the Navy's greatest battles, under the shouts of "Remember the Maine" - which was destroyed in Havana Harbor - he gave the command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley" to the captain of his flagship on May 1, 1898. Under Dewey's leadership, the American fleet was able to destroy the Spanish fleet before noon and without any loss of American lives. Nine American ships destroyed 11 ships of the Spanish fleet. Dewey was made a rear admiral because of this victory, which was considered "second to none," at Manila Bay in the Philippine Islands. On the orders of then acting Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt, Dewey began to prepare his forces. During what was to be one of the Navy's greatest battles, under the shout of "Remember the Maine" - which was destroyed in Havana Harbor - he gave the command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley" to the captain of his flagship on May 1, 1898.

The United States declared war on Spain in 1898. Dewey's squadron was in the port of Hong Kong. His mission was to capture or destroy the Spanish fleet, which was considered "second to none," at Manila Bay in the Philippine Islands. On the orders of then acting Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt, Dewey began to prepare his forces. During what was to be one of the Navy's greatest battles, under the shout of "Remember the Maine" - which was destroyed in Havana Harbor - he gave the command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley" to the captain of his flagship on May 1, 1898.

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