

## Lou Gallic

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Lou's recovery. Lou was then decorated with the Silver Star, several other



*Dolphin Legends: Lou, Mineko, and Cecco*

citations, and was honorably discharged from the Army. The hero briefly returned to St. Lo area as an official for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

He then returned to New York, where he met his first wife, Dorothy. Looking through the newspapers of different cities for career opportunities, he noted that the Los Angeles Times was the thickest. Concluding that such a volume of information meant there was more career potential there, he and Dorothy journeyed to the City of Angels. His theory proved not far from the truth.

He began working as a restaurant manager in Apple Valley, north of Los Angeles. Their son, Gordon, was born shortly thereafter in 1947. The determination he had shown in war carried over to civilian life, and his boss was impressed. Lou had other plans, however, wishing to gain a college degree. His boss tried to keep him at the firm with an offer of a raise, but the future Dolphin would not be swayed. He enrolled in the accounting program at

Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

These were difficult yet successful years. Lou worked as a bookkeeper for the White House department store at night, taking his classes by day. The family was aided in part by an Army pension. With equal parts of effort and G.I. bill dollars, Lou graduated in 1954 and began working for Heyman Brothers Real Estate as a salesman. His rise in the firm was rapid, though there were underlings there who disliked reporting to a boss with a

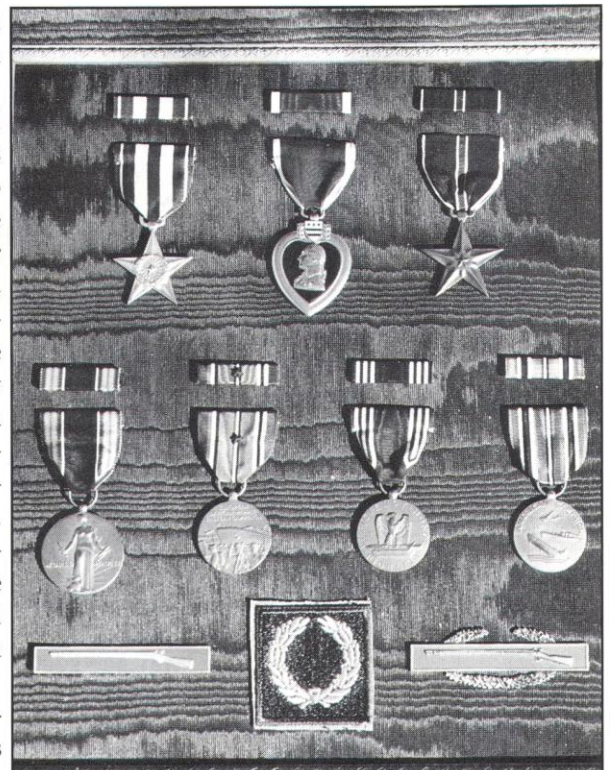
thick, "un-American" French accent.

An avid ice skater and regatta sailor for much of his life, Lou's interest turned to swimming, and he joined the Dolphin Club in September of 1956. Shortly afterward, he began another new venture—his own real estate firm. Louis Gallic Company was formed in 1957. The firm was integral to the development of some of the first housing in Foster City, California. Though his business demanded long hours, he made swimming in the cove and spending time at the Club a priority.

Watershed events continued into the autumn of his years. He was in a life-threatening car accident in 1965 and was divorced from Dorothy before the decade was over. Shortly afterward he met Mineko, a very happy acci-

dent. "We just walked into each other's life one day," she recounts. The two shared some of the most joyful years of their lives together. She accompanied Lou to the club for his daily swim for the last 25 years, regardless of mood or weather. She recently was by his side as he fought through to another success, recovering from hip replacement surgery and then pneumonia. However, at the age of 94, the man's unquenchable spirit moved from this world to the next.

Lou Gallic's story and spirit continue to inspire here and now. Succeeding under fire from a desperate enemy, creating a good life for himself and his family, building and maintaining a successful business, he remains a legend for this and future ages. As long as there is a Dolphin to remember and tell others, this remarkable man and his story will remain bright and vibrant.



*Gallic's Medals, left to right, first row: Silver Star, Purple Heart, Bronze Star; second row: World War II Service, European Theater of Operations with Battle Star, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign; third row: Infantry Medal, Unit Citation for Division Regiment, and Combat Infantry Medal.*

