



THE MASSACHUSETTS LAFAYETTE SOCIETY

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**Local Legend Marvin Gilmore Honored for World War II Military Service**  
***First African-American in New England to Receive the French Legion of Honor Medal***

**What:** On Massachusetts Lafayette Day, Christophe Guilhou, French Consulate of Boston, will award the first African-American from New England with France's Legion of Honor Medal. Long time Boston resident, business leader and war hero, Marvin Gilmore, Jr. will be honored for his service in the 458<sup>th</sup>, Battery 'A' Anti-Aircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion and served on D-Days Normandy, Utah and Omaha Beaches.

In addition, Gilmore Jr. will be awarded several Good Conduct Medals, including the American Campaign Medal, European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal & Bronze Star Attachment, World War II Victory Medal, Honorable Service Lapel Button WWI, Sharpshooter Badge & Rifle Bar.

Since 1973, Gilmore Jr. has served as the President & CEO of the Community Development Corporation of Boston, Inc., a community-based, private, non-profit economic development organization. Prior to joining the CDC, Gilmore Jr. co-founded the first Black-owned and operated commercial bank in Boston, the Unity Bank and Trust Company in Roxbury. Gilmore Jr. currently resides in Cambridge. *(Full biography below.)*

**When:** Thursday, May 20, 2010  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Schedule:**  
10:00 a.m. – 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts Lafayette Day Ceremony  
11:00 a.m. – Legion Medal of Honor Award Ceremony

**Who:** Marvin E. Gilmore, Jr.  
The French Consulate of Boston  
Massachusetts Lafayette Society

**Where:** Massachusetts State House, Gardner Auditorium  
Boston, MA

**About Marvin E. Gilmore Jr.**

Marvin Gilmore is a humanitarian, entrepreneur, political advisor, honored World War II veteran, musician, and family man, to name just a few of the many incarnations for which this amazing man is known both nationally and internationally. Mr. Gilmore has a resume as eclectic as his interests.

Mr. Gilmore was a co-founder of the Unity Bank and Trust Company in Roxbury in the late 60's, the first Black-owned and operated commercial bank in Boston. Later, he served on the Low Income Housing Commission, whose proposed legislation created the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency.

Since 1973, Mr. Gilmore has served as the President and CEO of Community Development Corporation of Boston, a community-based, private, non-profit economic development organization. The primary focus of the CDC has been to encourage businesses to develop sites in inner-city neighborhoods. Mr. Gilmore was a primary force in the economic development of the Southwest Corridor, and under Mr. Gilmore's stewardship the CDC took the dilapidated building of the Newmarket Industrial District and turned them into a textbook example of successful urban revitalization. Mr. Gilmore spearheaded the development of industrial projects within the CrossTown Industrial Park in Roxbury/South End, including Digital Equipment Corp., Morgan Memorial headquarters and Boston University's biomedical laboratories.

Mr. Gilmore's interests and efforts, however, do not stop with community development. He actively raised life membership funds and the membership for the Boston branch of the NAACP, which included such notable figures as lifetime members as Sammy Davis, Jr. Mr. Gilmore's forward thinking business savvy and philanthropy have helped numerous non-profit organizations, including Youville Hospital and New England Conservatory of Music, where he has served as a trustee and board member.

Mr. Gilmore has had a lifelong love affair with music that began in childhood, nurtured during his time at the Royal Scottish Academy School of Music, in Glasgow, Scotland, at the end of World War II, and blossomed with a degree in music from New England Conservatory of Music. For more than 42 years, he has owned and managed the Western Front in Cambridge, which has been home to some of the finest in live Reggae, Latin, Jazz, and Salsa music in the greater Boston area, including but not limited to featuring such greats as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong. On November 6, 2004, the City of Cambridge honored Marvin by naming a Square at Memorial Drive and Western Ave in his honor, "Marvin E. Gilmore Square".

In 2000, Mr. Gilmore was featured by Tom Brokaw in an NBC Nightly News special on minority service in WWII. In celebration of the 2000 Day of Honor, Mr. Gilmore joined former President Bill Clinton, General Colin Powell and the late Senator Edward Kennedy in the Laying of the Wreath of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Gilmore is also the co-owner of Urban Realty Group, a licensed real estate broker located in Brookline, Massachusetts, specializing in commercial and residential real estate sales and rentals.

Even at 85 years young, Mr. Gilmore continues to offer his expertise on a wide variety of fronts. Mr. Gilmore has been asked to serve on Boston University's Medical Center Task Force charged with re-organizing the entire BioTech/Medical School Campus. Mr. Gilmore is also responding to the crisis in Haiti, hosting a fundraiser for earthquake survivors at the Western Front on February 14, 2010.

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