



World War I
Victory Medal



USS Wyoming (BB-32)



USS Galveston (Cruiser #17)

Charles James Kline, Sr.
Boatswain's Mate 1/C U.S. Navy
13 July 1916 – 21 September 1920

Charles was born on 8 April 1897 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he attended Jefferson Elementary School until 1911. He then worked for various contractors as a Bricklayer and Stonemason in Allentown and in the Lehigh Valley from 1911 to 1947 except during the time he was in the Navy. He helped construct the 8th Street Bridge in Allentown and later worked on constructing and repairing many of the stone churches in Allentown. Charles enlisted in the Navy in Allentown on 13 July 1916 as an Apprentice Seaman. He was assigned to Naval Training Station, Newport, Rhode Island, and was trained as a Gunner. He then served as a gun crew member aboard several merchant ships engaged in convoy duty in the Atlantic Ocean, and was later assigned to Battleship *USS Wyoming (BB-32)*. He served aboard *USS Wyoming* as a Boatswain's Mate in the Chesapeake Bay region until 13 November 1917, when she deployed overseas for maneuvers and tactical exercises with units of the British Grand Fleet until 6 February 1918. After that, she guarded Allied minelayers as they planted mines for the North Sea Mine Barrage. On 21 November 1918, 10 days after the Armistice ended World War I, *USS Wyoming* assisted the British Grand Fleet in escorting the German High Seas Fleet into the Firth of Forth, Scotland, to be interned. She returned to New York City on Christmas Day 1918, and remained there through New Year's Day 1919. Following winter maneuvers in Cuban waters, she returned north, reaching New York on 14 April 1919. Sometime thereafter, Charles was reassigned to *USS Galveston (Cruiser #17)*, which was re-designated *Gunboat (PG-31)* in July 1920. *USS Galveston* transported troops, refugees, Red Cross officials, and senior officers in troubled Black Sea waters from the Russian ports of Novorossisk and Theodosia to Constantinople, Turkey, until returning home by way of Mediterranean ports, reaching Boston on 17 September 1920. Charles was discharged in Boston three days later as Boatswain's Mate 1/C. He returned home, and shortly thereafter married **Helen Frances Grider** (5 August 1899 – 15 December 1935). Charles and Helen lived in Allentown until 1925, when they moved to Upper Milford Township. After Helen's death, Charles returned to Allentown, and in 1938 returned to Upper Milford Township. In 1940, he remarried, and in 1947 he and his second wife moved to Florida where he worked for many years as a Bricklayer Foreman for various contractors. In the late 1970s, he suffered a massive stroke and was returned to Pennsylvania. Charles died in Cedarbrook Nursing Home, Fountain Hill Annex, on 16 November 1981, and was buried at Highland Cemetery in Allentown. Charles and Helen raised two sons, **Charles James Jr.** who served in the Navy during World War II and during the Korean War, and **Wayne Robert** (11 November 1926 – 15 July 1991) who served in the Navy during World War II. Charles's parents were **John N. Kline** (15 October 1865 – 21 June 1930) and **Annie A. E. Preston** (7 February 1872 – 9 February 1938).