Umm Haram Bint Milhan (may Allah be pleased with her) was a maternal aunt of Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and he would often visit her and would sometimes take a nap in her house. One day, the prophet came to visit her and she provided him with food and started grooming his head. The prophet fell asleep and a short while later woke up smiling. Umm Haram asked,
Many years later after the demise of the Prophet, when the borders of Islam had reached Syria and beyond, Mu‘awiyah (may Allah be pleased with him) who was the governor at the time was facing a growing problem of Byzantine attacks on Syria’s coastline who were using Cyprus as a launch point. He sought permission from the second caliph, Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) to launch a naval attack against Cyprus to bring an end to attacks by the Byzantines. Umar didn’t give permission because of the dangers of the sea and the inexperience of the Muslims in naval warfare.

When Uthman (may Allah be pleased with him) became caliph, Mu‘awiyah managed to convince him that it was necessary to attack Cyprus because of the Byzantine threat. Mu‘awiyah prepared a fleet to be sent to Cyprus and ‘Ubadah bin Saamit (may Allah be pleased with him) and his companions went along. They boarded the ships and set sail for Cyprus. When they arrived, they fought a naval battle with the Byzantines and emerged victorious. They then proceeded to land on the shores of Cyprus and engaged in a land battle with the Byzantines. They emerged victorious in that battle as well. The Byzantines were forced to retreat and Mu‘awiyah’s forces occupied Cyprus.

The event described above is known as the Battle of Cyprus. It was a significant victory for the Muslims and it demonstrated their ability to carry out naval operations successfully. This victory also boosted the morale of the Muslims and strengthened their position in the region.

What makes you smile, O Messenger of Allah?" He said, "Some people of my ummah were shown to me (in my dream) fighting in the way of Allah, sailing in the middle of the seas like kings on the thrones (or he said) like kings sitting on their thrones." Umm Haram added, "I said, ‘O Messenger of Allah! Pray to Allah to make me one of them.’ " So the Messenger of Allah prayed to Allah for her and then laid his head down (and slept). Then he woke up smiling (again). (Umm Haram added): I said, "What makes you smile, O Messenger of Allah?" He said, "Some people of my ummah were shown to me (in my dream) fighting in the way of Allah." He said the same as he had said before. I said, "O Messenger of Allah! Pray to Allah to make me one of them." He said, "You will be among the first ones." (Reported by Bukhari)
pleased with him) was put in charge of the Muslim navy. This would be the first naval attack in Islamic history.

Umm Haram was ‘Ubadah bin Saamit’s wife and she volunteered to accompany him in the perilous journey. The prophet’s prayer for her many years ago would finally come true.

After defeating coastguards that attacked them as they approached the island, the Muslim ships landed on the coast of Cyprus. When the Muslim disembarked, Umm Haram was riding a horse which suddenly got frightened and jumped violently causing Umm Haram to fall off and die as a result of her injuries in the path of Allah. As for Cyprus, sources indicate that its inhabitants decided to negotiate peace and signed a treaty with the Muslim state.

Umm Haram was buried where she fell in Cyprus and today, there is a Mosque adjacent to her grave which was built by the Ottomans in her honour. Till today, people from all over the world visit her grave when they visit Cyprus and it is one of the most
important places for Muslims in Cyprus. If she were to die in Madinah Al Munawwarah for example, then her grave may have been overlooked amidst the graves of other prominent companions of the Prophet. But she strove in the way of Allah and she was honoured with the fact that hundreds continue to visit her grave every year.

This is how the Ottoman-built mosque (known as the Hala Sultan Tekke or the Mosque of Umm Haram) looks like:
A tomb has been built over the grave which is located at the rear of the Mosque:
Her blessed grave lies behind this gate. May Allah be pleased with her.