

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 106

RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, World War II hero Doris "Dorie" Miller exhibited
2 extraordinary courage on the USS *West Virginia* during the December
3 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, and his bravery has not received
4 the full honors and recognition that it merits; and

5 WHEREAS, A native Texan, Dorie Miller was born in Waco on
6 October 12, 1919, and enlisted in the United States Navy on
7 September 16, 1939; and

8 WHEREAS, In the opening hours of America's entry into the
9 war, the 22-year-old assisted fellow sailors and his wounded
10 captain out of the line of fire to shelter; he then manned a machine
11 gun on which he had not been trained, seizing both the initiative
12 and the offense at a moment of critical national peril, and fired at
13 the Japanese planes until the crew was ordered to abandon the ship;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, For heroism on the USS *West Virginia*, Admiral
16 Chester Nimitz bestowed upon Dorie Miller the Navy Cross, the
17 United States Navy's highest honor, during a ceremony on the flight
18 deck of the USS *Enterprise* at Pearl Harbor on May 27, 1942; Dorie
19 Miller was the first African American to receive that award; and

20 WHEREAS, Dorie Miller was serving on the USS *Liscome Bay*, an
21 escort carrier, on November 24, 1943, when his ship was sunk by a
22 Japanese submarine in an attack which cost the lives of 646 men;
23 Dorie Miller was officially presumed dead a year and a day after the
24 carrier went down; and

1 WHEREAS, Besides the Navy Cross, he was entitled to the
2 Purple Heart, the American Defense Service Medal--Fleet Clasp, the
3 Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal
4 and in 1973, the United States further recognized his military
5 contributions by naming a frigate, the USS *Miller*, after him; and

6 WHEREAS, His actions on the USS *West Virginia* and his valiant
7 service to his country during World War II warrant the highest honor
8 that a member of the United States Armed Forces can receive, the
9 Congressional Medal of Honor, and justify also a special philatelic
10 commemoration that will endear this man of courage and selflessness
11 to his fellow citizens and confer their utmost respect and
12 gratitude; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
14 Legislature hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United
15 States of America to posthumously bestow upon Doris "Dorie" Miller
16 the Congressional Medal of Honor; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
18 Legislature hereby respectfully request the U.S. Postal Service and
19 the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a commemorative
20 postage stamp honoring Doris "Dorie" Miller as part of their Black
21 Heritage series and that the Texas delegation to the congress--as
22 well as the Congressional Black Caucus--be hereby reverentially
23 asked to join the effort to attain issuance of such a postage stamp;
24 and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of
26 Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the
27 president of the United States, to the postmaster general, to the

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1 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
2 senate of the United States Congress, to all the members of the
3 Texas delegation to the congress, and to all members of the
4 Congressional Black Caucus, with the added request that this
5 resolution be officially entered in the *Congressional Record* as a
6 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.