

BLACK HISTORY

United States Sailor Served with Distinction

Stamp immortalizes brave soldier

Doris "Dorie" Miller, a revered U.S. Navy icon, has been commemorated by the U.S. Postal Service with his image on a new First-Class stamp.

The first black American hero of World War II, Miller (1919-1943) became an inspiration to generations of Americans for his actions at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Serving aboard the battleship West Virginia as a mess attendant — the only job rating open to blacks at the time — Miller helped rescue scores of shipmates wounded or trapped in wreckage.

He was later ordered to the bridge to help move the ship's mortally wounded captain. Never trained



in its operation, he manned an unattended 50-caliber machine gun to fire on Japanese aircraft until ordered to abandon the bridge as fires raged out of control. He was later awarded the Navy Cross.

Miller was promoted in June 1943 to Officer's Cook Third Class aboard the new escort aircraft carrier Liscome Bay and was killed in action on Nov. 24 that year along with more than 600 shipmates when an enemy torpedo sank the ship during the invasion of the Gilbert Islands. His body was lost at sea.

His stamp is based on a 1942 photograph and depicts the crest of the destroyer escort USS Miller, commissioned in 1973. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr., portrayed Miller in the 2001 movie Pearl Harbor.



We stand together, richer for our differences.

We celebrate the wisdom of collaboration and the strength in diversity.