

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2336

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Doris Miller, in recognition of his acts of valor while a member of the United States Navy during World War II.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2025

Mr. MFUME introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Doris Miller, in recognition of his acts of valor while a member of the United States Navy during World War II.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Doris Miller Congres-  
5       sional Gold Medal Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Doris Miller, like other African-American  
2 sailors of his day, was generally relegated to service-  
3 based roles on ships, as the Navy did not allow sail-  
4 ors of color to enlist in combat roles.

5           (2) On December 7, 1941, Doris Miller was  
6 serving aboard the USS West Virginia in Hawaii  
7 when Japanese torpedo bombers attacked his ship  
8 and others at the Pearl Harbor Naval Base—head-  
9 quarters of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. During this infam-  
10 ous attack, Doris Miller manned a gun magazine  
11 amidships. When a torpedo damaged the magazine,  
12 Doris Miller helped carry the wounded to safety, in-  
13 cluding his ship’s commander, Captain Mervyn S.  
14 Bennion. Doris Miller then manned a .50 caliber  
15 antiaircraft gun, for which he had no training, and  
16 continued firing on the enemy until he ran out of  
17 ammunition and received the order to abandon ship.

18           (3) Doris Miller was acknowledged in the USS  
19 West Virginia Action Report, individually, along  
20 with other brave personnel for having “carried out  
21 every order promptly and enthusiastically, even when  
22 it meant danger to themselves. They did not attempt  
23 to abandon the bridge until ordered to do so.”.

24           (4) Doris Miller aided other service members  
25 and “was instrumental in hauling people along

1 through oil and water to the quarterdeck, thereby  
2 unquestionably saving the lives of a number of peo-  
3 ple who might otherwise have been lost.”.

4 (5) On December 15, 1941, the Navy released  
5 its commendations for actions in Pearl Harbor  
6 which included one “unnamed Negro”. It wasn’t  
7 until March of 1942, at the behest of the NAACP,  
8 that the Navy formally recognized Miller’s heroism.

9 (6) Doris Miller was recognized by the Navy  
10 and awarded the Navy Cross Medal with the citation  
11 reading “For distinguished devotion to duty, ex-  
12 traordinary courage and disregard for his own per-  
13 sonal safety during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl  
14 Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by Japanese forces on  
15 December 7, 1941. While at the side of his Captain  
16 on the bridge, Miller, despite enemy strafing and  
17 bombing and in the face of a serious fire, assisted  
18 in moving his Captain, who had been mortally  
19 wounded, to a place of greater safety, and later  
20 manned and operated a machine gun directed at  
21 enemy Japanese attacking aircraft until ordered to  
22 leave the bridge.”.

23 (7) On May 27, 1942, Admiral Chester Nimitz  
24 personally pinned the Navy Cross to Miller’s left

1       breast pocket while on board the aircraft carrier  
2       USS Enterprise.

3               (8) Doris Miller died in action on November 24,  
4       1943, on board the USS Liscome Bay in the Pacific  
5       Ocean after a single Japanese torpedo sank the ves-  
6       sel off the coast of Butaritari Island.

7   **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

8       (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
9       the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
10      pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
11      for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,  
12      of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration  
13      of Doris Miller, in recognition of his acts of valor while  
14      a member of the Navy during World War II.

15      (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
16      presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
17      of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
18      “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
19      blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
20      Secretary.

21      (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

22              (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the  
23      gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal  
24      shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with Doris Miller.

9       The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
10 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at  
11 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
12 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-

1    essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant  
2    to this Act.

3           (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—The amounts received  
4    from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under  
5    section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint  
6    Public Enterprise Fund.

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