

Congressional Medal Of Honor Posthumously



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson representing the 30th district of Texas, once again introduced legislation on January 18, 2007, to the 110th Congress—H.R.566—designed to honor Dorie Miller, our brother and comrade of World War II. Since she was a child Congresswoman Johnson has embraced the effort to honor her hometown hero with the Medal of Honor for his heroism at Pearl Harbor. Like Dorie Miller, Congresswoman Johnson is a native of Waco, Texas. She recalls her father taking her to meet Miller when he briefly returned to his hometown during a furlough following the fateful events at Pearl Harbor.

Six decades have passed since Dorie Miller's daring exploits aboard the battleship USS West Virginia, which was docked at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, catapulted him from a lowly Mess Attendant to the lofty status of a national hero and an icon to generations of African Americans. Yet Miller never received the nation's highest honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor. Congresswoman Johnson's bill would waive the time limitation specified in current law for the awarding of military decorations in order to allow the posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Dorie Miller for his heroic actions during World War II. In fact, no African American who served in World War II received the Congressional Medal of Honor until seven Army veterans were given the award in 1997," said Congresswoman Johnson. "I am requesting the Armed Services Committee to expedite its passage of the bill honoring Dorie Miller, who is quintessential great American hero".

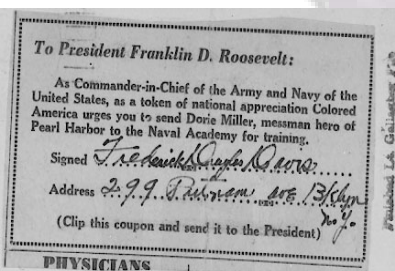
The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest military award for bravery. It is awarded by the President in the name of Congress. For this reason, it is often referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor. Since it was first awarded in 1863, 3,409 individuals have been awarded this medal. Nineteen individuals have been double recipients of the award. Recipients of the Medal of Honor are afforded a number of benefits as a result of this award. On a number of occasions, legislation has been offered to waive certain restrictions and to encourage the President to award the Medal of Honor to particular individuals. Generally speaking, this type of legislation is rarely enacted. In a very limited number of cases, the medal has been awarded outside the legal restrictions concerning time limits.

In their provisions for judging whether a man is entitled to the Medal of Honor, each of the armed services has set up regulations which permit no margin of doubt or error. The deed of the person must be proved by incontestable evidence of at least two eyewitnesses; it must be so outstanding that it clearly distinguishes his gallantry beyond the call of duty from lesser forms of bravery; it must involve the risk of his life; and it must be of the type of deed which, if he had not done it, would not subject him to any justified criticism. In 1918, during U.S. participation in World War I, Congress decided to clear away any inconsistencies of the legislation which had grown around the Army medal and make a set of perfectly clear rules for its award.

UNDER CURRENT LAW

The President may award, and present in the name of Congress, a medal of honor of appropriate design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to a person who while a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force, distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty--

- ◆ While engaged in military operations against an enemy of the United States;
- ◆ While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force;
- ◆ While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.



The initiative to seek the Medal of Honor for Dorie Miller is as old as the heroic act itself. This effort has not always been posthumously. A year after Pearl Harbor, Miller was first nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor by the father of Congressman John Dingell. Today, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson is joined by others in her movement. Research of this topic shows numerous efforts dating back to 1942, to honor the hero. World War II Army Veteran. Sergeant Stephen E. Sherman (RET) of Van Nuys, California, is one of few African American WW II Veterans living who knew Dorie Miller. At the age of eighty-six he continues to write numerous letters to Presidents, Congressmen, and Congresswomen, Governors, Legislators, Secretary of Armed Forces about his friend Dorie Miller. One of the programs for Dorie Miller Post 915 of Chicago, IL, will be to join the major efforts put forth by Congresswoman Johnson, Sergeant Sherman, The American Legion 86th National Convention, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, and all others in this very important initiative.

Eighty-Sixth National Convention of
The American Legion
 Nashville, Tennessee
 August 31, September 1, 2, 2004



Resolution No. 317: The Medal Of Honor For Dorie Miller, USN
Origin: Illinois
Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security (as amended)

WHEREAS, Resolutions #21 requesting the awarding of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Dorie Miller was adopted at the Department of Convention on July 17 – 20, 1996 in Springfield, IL; and

WHEREAS, Resolution #8, resubmitting this request was approved at the Department Convention on July 11—15, 2001 in Peoria, IL; and

WHEREAS, Resolution #122 recommending that the same action be submitted to the U.S. Congress was adopted on August 28—30, 2001 at the National Convention, San Antonio, Texas; and

WHEREAS, The awarding of the medal was denied due to the current award time restrictions in the current regulations; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution HR44451H has been introduced and, if adopted, would exempt time limitations for Dorie Miller, Cook 3rd Class; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Nashville, Tennessee, August 31, September 1, 2, 2004, that The American Legion, due to extensive research during the past decade revealing new and relevant material, support the adoption of legislation creating a Congressionally-mandated Navy board to review the complete record of Dorie Miller, USN, for the purpose of posthumously awarding him the Medal of Honor.

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DORIE MILLER POST 915