Doris Miller, an African American hero of World War II, was born in Waco, Texas, on October 12, 1919, to sharecroppers Connery and Henrietta Miller. Despite being assigned to the Stewards Branch as a cook due to racial segregation in the U.S. Navy, Miller's courageous actions during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, made him a notable figure. Without prior training, he manned an anti-aircraft gun, downing two Japanese planes and assisting in the rescue of wounded soldiers after exhausting his ammunition. Initially referred to as the "unnamed Negro messman," Miller's heroism was reluctantly acknowledged by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, who opposed Black men in combat roles. Knox’s prejudice and intense hatred, represented by his statement that Black soldiers were "trying to break into a club that doesn't want them.", stood in sharp contrast to the courage and fortitude exhibited by heroes like

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Doris Miller. Miller received high honors, including the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart, for his extraordinary courage. He was commended by Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who remarked on the significance of Miller's recognition as the first African American to receive such high tribute in the Pacific Fleet. Despite his newfound celebrity status, Miller returned to sea and was killed in action when the USS Liscome Bay was sunk by a Japanese submarine in November 1943. His legacy endured through films and statues honoring his heroism. In 2010, Miller was honored on a U.S. postage stamp and posthumously received the distinction of having a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier named after him. These recognitions underscored Miller's lasting impact and contributions to World War II, despite the prejudice and racism he faced. Miller's act of courage would have been forgotten if not for advocacy and recognition, highlighting the importance of acknowledging the contributions of people of color in shaping...
His legacy serves as a testament to the resilience and bravery of African American servicemen during World War II, challenging systemic racism and discrimination.\textsuperscript{13}


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