

1-1 By: White (Senate Sponsor - West) H.C.R. No. 45
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 1, 2017;
 1-3 May 5, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran
 1-4 Affairs & Border Security; May 15, 2017, reported favorably by the
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 15, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, During the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7,
 1-17 1941, Petty Officer Doris Miller of the U.S. Navy demonstrated
 1-18 valor above and beyond the call of duty, and he is long past due for
 1-19 full recognition of his extraordinary courage and initiative on
 1-20 that day; and

1-21 WHEREAS, A native of Texas, Doris "Dorie" Miller was born in
 1-22 Waco on October 12, 1919, to Henrietta and Conery Miller; he was a
 1-23 fullback on the football team at Moore High School in Waco, and he
 1-24 went on to work on his father's farm; and

1-25 WHEREAS, In September 1939, Mr. Miller enlisted in the U.S.
 1-26 Navy as a way to see the world and earn money for his family; at that
 1-27 time, African Americans were only permitted to perform menial tasks
 1-28 in the Navy, so Mr. Miller was trained as a mess attendant at the
 1-29 Naval Training Station in Norfolk, Virginia; after a brief
 1-30 assignment on the ammunition ship USS *Pyro*, he was transferred in
 1-31 January 1940 to the battleship USS *West Virginia*, where he won
 1-32 distinction among the crew as the ship's heavyweight boxing
 1-33 champion; his rank at the time was mess attendant, second class; and

1-34 WHEREAS, Mr. Miller rose at 6 a.m. on the morning of December
 1-35 7, 1941, and he was collecting laundry when the Japanese attack
 1-36 began and the alarm for general quarters was sounded; even mess
 1-37 attendants had a battle station, but Mr. Miller's, an antiaircraft
 1-38 battery magazine, had already been destroyed by a torpedo, so he
 1-39 went up on deck where, as the ship began to sink, he hauled wounded
 1-40 shipmates through oil and water to safety on the quarterdeck; he was
 1-41 then ordered to the bridge, where he picked up the ship's mortally
 1-42 wounded captain and carried him to an aid station; and

1-43 WHEREAS, Mr. Miller then returned to the bridge, and on his
 1-44 own initiative, he began firing a .50-caliber Browning antiaircraft
 1-45 machine gun at the attacking Japanese planes; he had never trained
 1-46 on the weapon, but, as he reported later, "It wasn't hard, I just
 1-47 pulled the trigger and she worked fine"; with no concern for his own
 1-48 safety, he continued firing until the gun's ammunition ran out,
 1-49 possibly bringing down one of the enemy aircraft; in the meantime,
 1-50 the *West Virginia* had been hit by five enemy torpedoes, and
 1-51 Mr. Miller was finally forced to abandon ship with his surviving
 1-52 crewmates; and

1-53 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of the attack, Mr. Miller was
 1-54 commended by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, and on May 27, 1942,
 1-55 he became the first African American to receive the Navy Cross, the
 1-56 service's second-highest honor, which was personally presented to
 1-57 him by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the commander of the Pacific
 1-58 Fleet; he went on to serve on the USS *Indianapolis* and then the USS
 1-59 *Liscome Bay*; that ship was sunk by a Japanese submarine on November
 1-60 24, 1943, and though his body was never recovered, Mr. Miller was
 1-61 eventually listed among the 646 sailors who died that day; at the

2-1 time of his death, his rank was cook, third class; and

2-2 WHEREAS, In the years since, Mr. Miller's actions have become
2-3 an important part of the legacy of Pearl Harbor; during the war, a
2-4 poster from the U.S. Office of War Information featured his image
2-5 and urged African Americans to join the war effort, and in 1973, a
2-6 Knox-class frigate was christened the USS *Miller* in his honor; in
2-7 1991, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority dedicated a bronze plaque to him at
2-8 the U.S. Naval Base in Pearl Harbor, and in 2001, he was portrayed
2-9 by the actor Cuba Gooding Jr. in the blockbuster film, *Pearl Harbor*;
2-10 more recently, his story has been featured prominently in the
2-11 National Museum of African American History and Culture in
2-12 Washington, D.C.; in addition to the Navy Cross, he was also
2-13 entitled to the Purple Heart, the American Defense Service Medal,
2-14 Fleet Clasp, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War
2-15 II Victory Medal; and

2-16 WHEREAS, In 1939, when the clouds of world war were gathering
2-17 in Europe and Asia, Dorie Miller chose to enlist in a Navy that did
2-18 not trust black men to serve in combat, and at a moment of direst
2-19 need, he picked up a weapon he had never used before and fought back
2-20 against a savage enemy, performing brilliantly and courageously
2-21 under fire in defense of his ship, his crewmates, and his nation;
2-22 his valiant service on that day, and afterwards, warrants the
2-23 highest honor that can be bestowed upon a member of the armed forces
2-24 of the United States; now, therefore, be it

2-25 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-26 hereby urge the United States Congress to bestow on Doris "Dorie"
2-27 Miller the Congressional Medal of Honor; and, be it further

2-28 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward official copies
2-29 of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the
2-30 secretary of the Navy, to the speaker of the House of
2-31 Representatives and the president of the Senate of the United
2-32 States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to
2-33 Congress with the request that this resolution be officially
2-34 entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of
2-35 the United States of America.

2-36

* * * * *