



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
MONROE POST 100
P.O. BOX 831
UNION, WV 24983
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 1

**SUPPORT FOR RETENTION OF THE NAME USS DORIS MILLER FOR
CVN-81**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a long-standing commitment to honoring the service, sacrifice, courage, and achievements of America's veterans and to preserving the memories and incidents of their service in war; and

WHEREAS, Doris "Dorie" Miller was an enlisted member of the United States Navy who enlisted in 1939 and served his country during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Doris Miller was an African-American sailor serving in the United States Navy during an era in which racial segregation and discrimination imposed severe limitations upon the duties and opportunities available to many Black servicemembers; and

WHEREAS, Doris Miller was serving aboard the battleship USS West Virginia (BB-48) on December 7, 1941, when Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, during that attack, Miller performed acts of extraordinary courage and devotion to duty, including assisting wounded shipmates and taking action to defend his ship and fellow sailors despite having received no formal training in the operation of the antiaircraft weapon he employed; and

WHEREAS, for his heroism during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Doris Miller was awarded the Navy Cross by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in May 1942, becoming the first African-American recipient of the Navy Cross; and

WHEREAS, Doris Miller subsequently continued to serve his country at sea and was killed in action aboard the USS Liscome Bay (CVE-56) in November 1943; and

WHEREAS, Doris Miller's service aboard USS West Virginia gives the citizens and veterans of West Virginia a particular and enduring connection to his legacy and provides an especially appropriate basis for The American Legion Department of West Virginia to speak in support of retaining his name upon a United States Navy aircraft carrier; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2020, the United States Navy announced that CVN-81, a Gerald R. Ford-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, would be named the future USS Doris Miller, thereby honoring Miller's extraordinary service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, the naming of CVN-81 for Doris Miller would constitute a significant and historic recognition of an enlisted American sailor whose courage under fire exemplified the highest traditions of the United States Navy and the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the selection of Doris Miller as the namesake of CVN-81 would also recognize the service and sacrifice of the many African-American men and women who served the United States during periods when they were denied equal opportunity within the Armed Forces, while demonstrating that courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty are the common inheritance of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, recent public reports indicate that officials within the Department of Defense and Department of the Navy are considering whether CVN-81 should retain the name USS Doris Miller, with reports further indicating that other names, including that of a sitting President of the United States, may be under consideration; and

WHEREAS, no public announcement has established that the United States Navy has formally changed the name of CVN-81, and this resolution therefore seeks to express the position of American Legion Monroe Post 100 before any such change is made; and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy has a long tradition of naming aircraft carriers and other vessels for distinguished Americans, including former Presidents of the United States, while naming a Navy warship for a sitting President would represent a departure from that established practice; and

WHEREAS, the continued designation of CVN-81 as the USS Doris Miller would honor a sailor who earned his nation's Navy Cross for valor through personal courage in combat and whose service and sacrifice are matters of historical record, rather than matters of contemporary political affiliation or partisan preference; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By American Legion Monroe Post 100, Department of West Virginia, in regular meeting assembled at Union West Virginia, on 24 August 2026 that the Post strongly supports the retention of the name USS Doris Miller for aircraft carrier CVN-81 and respectfully urges the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, and all other appropriate officials to retain that designation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion Monroe Post 100 respectfully urges the Department of West Virginia to adopt and endorse this resolution and forward it through the established resolution process of The American Legion for consideration at the national level; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, should this resolution receive national consideration and approval, The American Legion is urged to make a public statement affirming its support for retaining the name USS Doris Miller and to communicate that position to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and other appropriate officials; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Department of West Virginia and, upon Department endorsement and advancement, to the National Adjutant of The American Legion and other appropriate officials.

ADOPTED: _____

American Legion Union Post 100
Department of West Virginia

DATE: 24 August 2026

POST COMMANDER: _____

POST ADJUTANT: _____