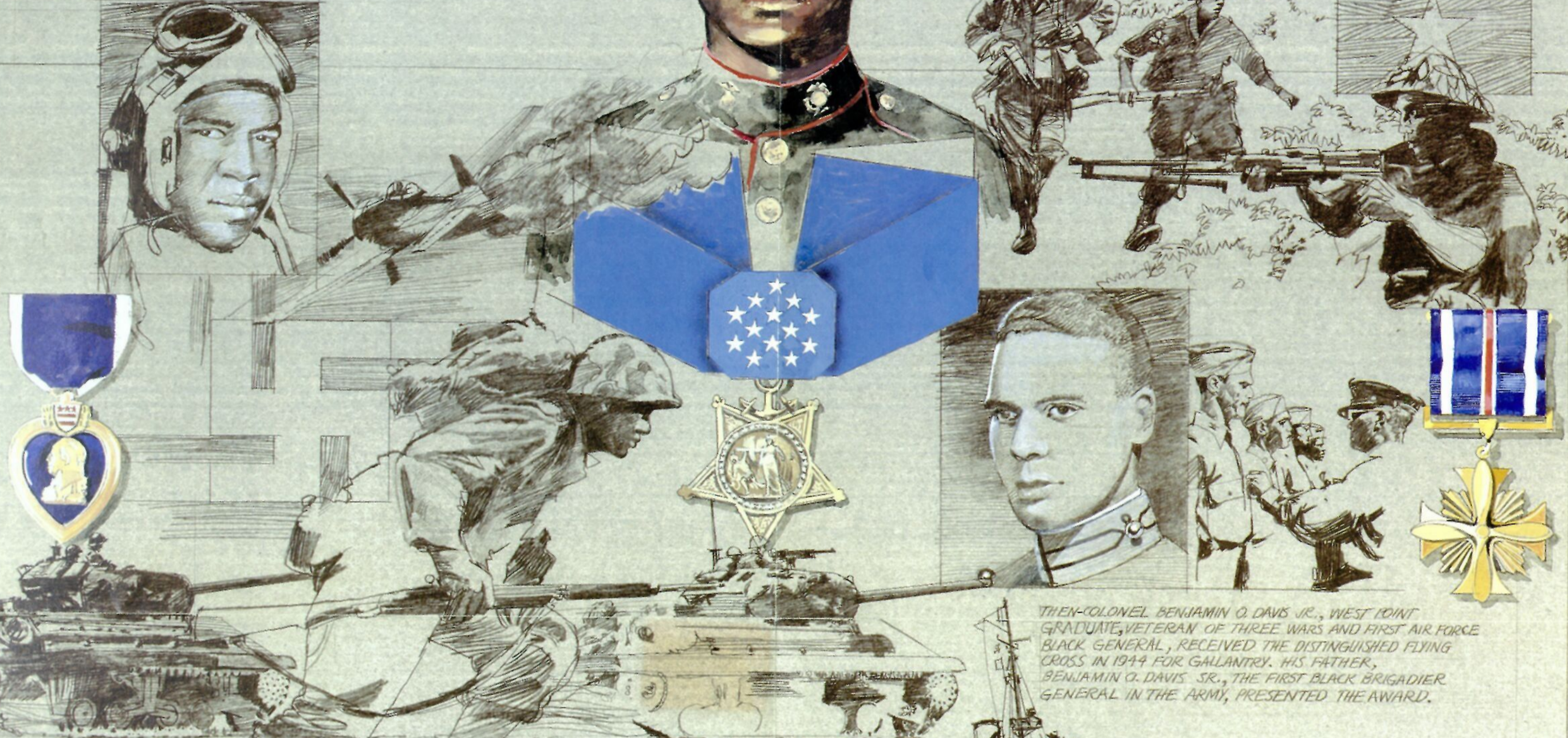


# Black History Month

February 1991

FIRST BLACK NAVAL AVIATOR ENSIGN JESSE L. BROWN, AN F-8F BEARCAT PILOT IN THE KOREAN WAR, RECEIVED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, AIR MEDAL AND PURPLE HEART POSTHUMOUSLY IN 1950.

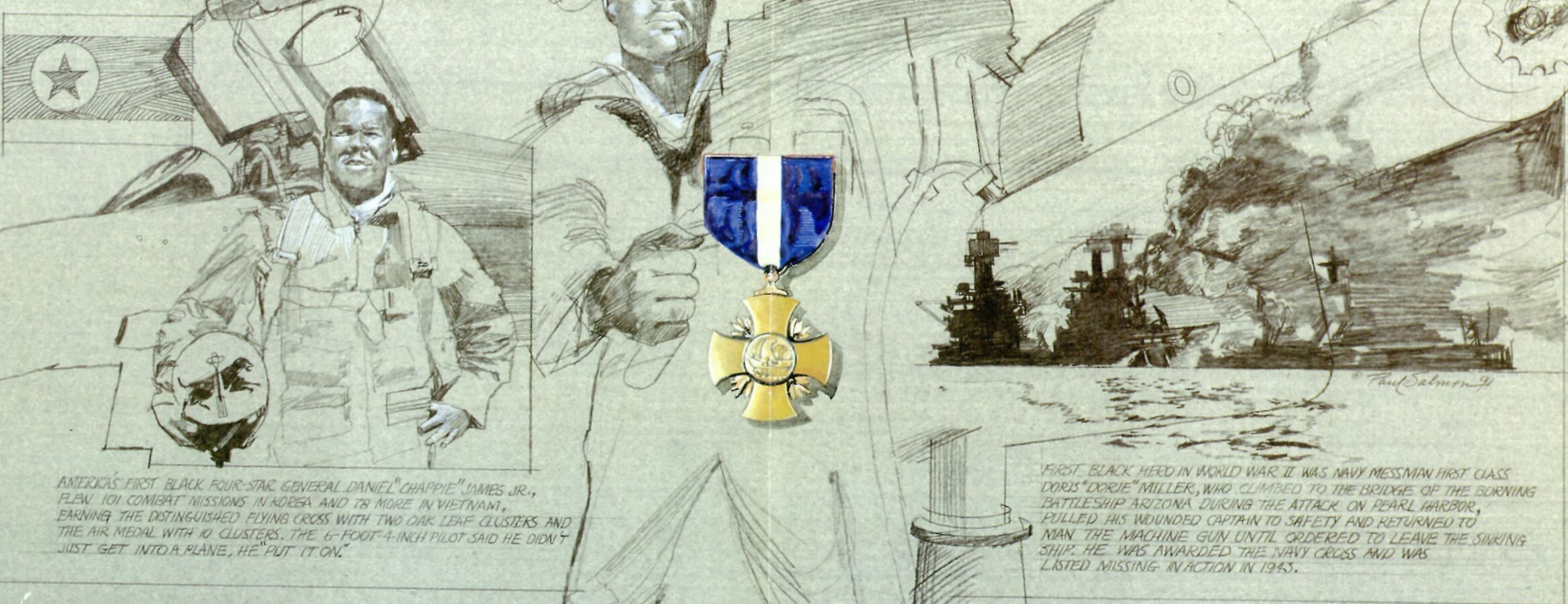
PFC JAMES ANDERSON JR., FIRST BLACK MARINE AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR IN VIETNAM, DIED SAVING THE LIVES OF HIS COMRADES BY FALLING ON A GRENADE DURING AN ENEMY AMBUSH IN 1967.



THE 761ST TANK BATTALION--THE ARMY'S FIRST BLACK TANK UNIT TO SEE COMBAT IN WORLD WAR II--EARNED A PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION FOR 183 CONTINUOUS DAYS IN BATTLE WITHOUT RELIEF DURING THE ALLIED THRUST ACROSS FRANCE, BELGIUM AND GERMANY.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

THEN-COLONEL BENJAMIN O. DAVIS JR., WEST POINT GRADUATE, VETERAN OF THREE WARS AND FIRST AIR FORCE BLACK GENERAL, RECEIVED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS IN 1944 FOR GALANTRY. HIS FATHER, BENJAMIN O. DAVIS SR., THE FIRST BLACK BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE ARMY, PRESENTED THE AWARD.



AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK FOUR-STAR GENERAL DANIEL "CHAPPIE" JAMES JR., FLEW 101 COMBAT MISSIONS IN KOREA AND 78 MORE IN VIETNAM, EARNING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH TWO OAK LEAF CLUSTERS AND THE AIR MEDAL WITH 10 CLUSTERS. THE 6-FOOT-4-INCH PILOT SAID HE DIDN'T JUST GET INTO A PLANE, HE "PUT IT ON."

FIRST BLACK HERO IN WORLD WAR II WAS NAVY MESSMAN FIRST CLASS DORIS "DORIE" MILLER, WHO CLIMBED TO THE BRIDGE OF THE BURNING BATTLESHIP ARIZONA DURING THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, PULLED HIS WOUNDED CAPTAIN TO SAFETY AND RETURNED TO MAN THE MACHINE GUN UNTIL ORDERED TO LEAVE THE SINKING SHIP. HE WAS AWARDED THE NAVY CROSS AND WAS LISTED MISSING IN ACTION IN 1945.