

American War Mothers

The American War Mothers were founded in 1917 and were incorporated by an act of congress on February 24, 1925. In September 1942, President Roosevelt ratified the charter to include mothers of sons and daughters serving in World War II.

War Mothers' Flag



This flag would hang in the window of a home in which the son or daughter was serving in the armed forces. A Gold Star was placed over the blue star if the child was killed in battle.



Lexington had at least two War Mothers Groups. The African American Group was known as the Dorie Miller Chapter of the American War Mothers.

The purpose of the group is to further patriotic work, to work for the welfare of the Armed Forces of the United States, to assist the men and women who served and were wounded or incapacitated, and to promote friendship and understanding between American and her allies.

Who is Dorie Miller?

Dorie Miller was an African American navy mess hand, stationed on the *U.S.S. West Virginia* when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He was assigned to carry wounded sailors to safety. As the fighting continued, he manned a 50 caliber Browning anti-aircraft gun, until ordered to abandon ship. Miller had never been trained in the use of the weapon. He received the Navy Cross for courage in battle.

