

## REGARDING ALABAMA VETERAN WILLIAM DANCY:

William Dancy's first job was as a paper carrier for the Birmingham News from age 11 to 18 in his hometown of Bessemer. Like a lot of young men, when he turned 18 he became restless and longed to see the world beyond Bessemer. For an African American in the 1930s, options for world travel were few. But, like the Marines, the United States Navy was always looking for a few good men. So he joined-up. When he did, he probably didn't realize he was embarking on the greatest adventure of his life.

His first assignment was on the USS W.C. Wood in 1940. He was later transferred to the USS Dale, which found its home at a place that would be forever etched into military history, a place called Pearl Harbor. William Dancy was one of the few men from Jefferson County present on December 7, 1941. During the war, he took part in numerous engagements, most notably the Battle of Midway. Discharged in 1944, he continued his government service as a member of the U.S. Postal Service, from which he retired. As a kid, he may have just carried papers in Bessemer, but, as a young man, he helped make headlines in the war.