

# Petersburg National Battlefield



**Decatur Dorsey**



## **1st Sergeant Decatur Dorsey**

*39th United States Colored Infantry Regiment*

Born: 1836    Died: July 11, 1891 in Hoboken, N.J.

Born a slave in Maryland, Dorsey was released by his owner to enlist in the 39th United States Colored Infantry regiment in March 1864. As a flag bearer for his unit at the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864, he earned the Medal of Honor for leading the regiment to the Confederate works and rallying the men when they were forced to fall back.