

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO.: 2019 - 08 - 195

August 13, 2019

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT H.CON.RES. 49 (DESAULNIER D – CA) –
PORT CHICAGO AFRICAN AMERICAN SAILORS EXONERATION

WHEREAS, on July 17, 1944, the deadliest home front disaster of World War II took place when a huge explosion occurred at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine killing 320 men (of whom 202 were African American) and wounding 390 (of whom 233 were African American); and

WHEREAS, 258 ammunition handlers engaged in a peaceful work stoppage rather than return under the same unsafe working conditions; 50 of these men were charged with mutiny, found guilty and sentenced to prison; and

WHEREAS, H.Con.Res. 49 expresses the sense of Congress that the trial and conviction of 50 African American sailors for mutiny in connection with their service at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Concord during World War II were wrongfully pursued because of racial prejudice; and

WHEREAS, Congress should publicly exonerate the 50 sailors to further aid in healing the racial divide that continues to exist in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Park District has been working closely with the City of Concord, the United States Navy and the National Park Service on the establishment of a new regional park on the inland portion of the closed Concord Naval Weapons Station with the official transfer of the property occurring on July 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Park District is working to establish a visitor center within the new regional park which will meet the educational and public awareness goals of the Park District and for the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial; and

WHEREAS, the full Board adopted a resolution of support for the exoneration of the Port Chicago 50 (2015-6-155) and support for previous Federal legislation H.Res. 616 (2016-060142); supporting H.Con.Res. 49 is consistent with the Board's previous position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby support H.Con.Res. 49 (DeSaulnier D – CA) – Port Chicago African American Sailors Exoneration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents, and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director Lane, seconded by Director Corbett, and adopted this 13th day of August 2019 by the following vote:

FOR: Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Ayn Wieskamp.

AGAINST: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: None.


Board President

CERTIFICATION
I, Yolande Barial Knight, Clerk of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No 2019-08-195 adopted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting held on AUGUST 13, 2019.
