NAACP - RICHMOND BRANCH
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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PRESS RELEASE

SJR 15 – Port Chicago 50 Exoneration

The Richmond California Branch was chartered in 1944. Since that time, it has been led by those committed and dedicated volunteer souls, who many times sacrificed much, for us to be brought thus far along the way. That way has many times been clogged with injustices in politics, education, social services, and economic inequalities. Which also includes unfair treatment toward those of us who took the oak to defend our Constitution by serving in one of the Arm Forces Branches. However, as demonstrated by the treatment of these 50 Black Sailors, who were punished because of their refusing to perform their duties in an unsafe work environment, history has shown that their refusing was more than justified. Their conviction for mutiny and 15 years sentencing, were unjust, and they should be exonerated.

We, the Richmond Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) want to go on record in supporting the urging of the President and the Congress of the United States to take action to restore honor to the sailors unjustly blamed for, and the sailors convicted of mutiny following, the disaster at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Concord, California, during World War II, and to rectify any mistreatment by the military of those sailors, including the full exoneration of those who were convicted at court-martial.

We stand in solidarity with our California / Hawaii State Conference and its 56 Branches in the States of California and Hawaii, in supporting SJR 15, as amended, Glazer; Port Chicago 50.

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