

On behalf of the Port Chicago Task Force of the Contra Costa County Bar Association, I write to thank you and your organizations for supporting our advocacy for exoneration of the Port Chicago 50! As you will have seen from recent news coverage, the Secretary of the Navy signed an order on July 17 exonerating the 256 sailors convicted at Port Chicago, including the 50 convicted of mutiny plus 206 sailors charged with disobeying orders. The Navy's press release explains the order in detail. <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/Press-Releases/display-pressreleases/Article/3841792/the-secretary-of-the-navy-exonerates-256-defendants-from-1944-port-chicago-gene/>



### The Secretary of the Navy Exonerates 256 Defendants from 1944 Port Chicago General and Sum

WASHINGTON – The Secretary of the Navy announced on July 17 the full exoneration of the remaining 256 defendants of the 1944 Port Chicago general and summary courts-martial.

[www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil)

On Saturday, July 20, the Secretary of the Navy attended the Commemoration ceremony, and I had a chance to speak with him at some length, as well as with the General Counsel of the Navy. Both explained that without grass roots advocacy, such as ours, this order would not have resulted.

For the past three-plus years, we have been seeking justice for the Port Chicago 50. The Federal Bar Association has been a staunch ally and partner in this effort, since before the trial reenactment in the Ceremonial Courtroom in the San Francisco federal courthouse in February 2023. That event and others like it provided encouragement and momentum, and starting last July we redoubled efforts to engage the Navy directly, as well as making sure the community was heard by the Navy. Our focus was on the 80th anniversary. Since last August, we have been building a broad coalition of religious, civil rights, veterans, and legal groups to make sure the Navy was aware of the depth and breadth of support for exoneration. Many of the coalition partners have been already and separately active in the longstanding exoneration movement, but also joined us, adding their expertise as well as their support. To each of you and your members, please know that your commitment to this coalition was a key ingredient to this campaign!

We are in the process of making plans for a celebration event for this coalition of groups who supported our advocacy, to be held sometime in August at a location TBD but very well could be the Bar Association headquarters in Concord. CCCBA Executive Director Jody Iorns, or CCCBA staff, may be in touch once we have additional information to share.

In the meantime, thank you very much for your commitment to this cause of justice!

Thank you,

Jonathan