

2. 80th Commemoration & Exoneration

Each year, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial commemorates the disaster with a public ceremony. Because the explosion and subsequent events exposed injustices of racism and illuminated issues of segregation and racial inequality in the military, the commemoration serves not only as a place to honor those who lost their lives or were otherwise impacted by the disaster, but also as a place for discussion and advancing social justice in our society.

This year, July 17, 2024, marked the 80th anniversary of the Port Chicago Disaster. On this historic anniversary, Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, officially announced the full exoneration of the Port Chicago 50 and 206 other sailors who were punished for the work stoppage after the disaster. This signifies a landmark moment in history and officially clears the names of these brave men. Del Toro stated, “The institution, the Navy, the military, our nation has an obligation to protect these men and women who serve so courageously,” reaffirming the men’s basic legal rights to a safe workplace.

Below are videos and news from this year’s commemoration and exoneration.

[80th Commemoration Event Video](#)

[90th Park District Anniversary Presentation](#)

[Thurgood Marshall - Home of the Port Chicago 50](#)

[U.S. Navy Secretary reads declaration exonerating sailors unjustly punished in Port Chicago explosion](#)

[Statement from President Joe Biden on U.S. Navy Port Chicago Exonerations](#)

[The Secretary of the Navy Exonerates 256 Defendants from 1944 Port Chicago General and Summary Courts-martial](#)

[East Bay Regional Park District Lauds Full Exoneration of Port Chicago Black Sailors by U.S. Secretary of the Navy](#)

[Letter from Kamala Harris \(attached .pdf\)](#)

July 15, 2023

Letter from Vice President Kamala Harris for the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial