

1 [Commemorating the 71st Anniversary of the Port Chicago Disaster and Urging Restorative
2 Justice to the U.S. Navy Sailors]

3 **Resolution commemorating the 71st Anniversary of the Port Chicago disaster and**
4 **urging the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to exonerate the 50**
5 **sailors convicted of mutiny in the incident with the designation of Honorable**
6 **Discharge.**

7
8 WHEREAS, On July 17, 1944, The United States Navy experienced the worst
9 ammunitions disaster and explosion in our Nation's history, instantly destroying the Contra-
10 Costa County California town of Port Chicago and killing 320 men, 202 of whom were African
11 American enlisted men; and

12 WHEREAS, The five thousand tons of exploding munitions injured in excess of 400
13 sailors as well, thereby representing more than 15 percent of all African American Naval
14 casualties during World War II; and

15 WHEREAS, Of the 258 sailors who initially refused to resume unsafe loading of
16 munitions some 208 would eventually yield to the Navy after threats with death by firing
17 squad, however the 50 who would not acquiesce faced the largest mass mutiny trial in Naval
18 history; and

19 WHEREAS, On October 24, 1944, at a Courts Martial trial at Treasure Island, in San
20 Francisco, in a now widely recognized miscarriage of justice, all 50 men were found guilty of
21 mutiny and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment; and

22 WHEREAS, The Port Chicago Mutiny trial (aka the Port Chicago 50) would ultimately
23 serve as the catalyst for eventual desegregation of the US Navy and the Armed Services; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1994, the National Park Service dedicated the Port Chicago site as a
25 National Memorial; and

1 WHEREAS, On April 19, 1999, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed
2 Resolution No. 361-99, urging President William Clinton and the US Congress to exonerate
3 the 50 sailors convicted of mutiny in the Port Chicago disaster. Subsequently a pardon was
4 granted to one of the 50 sailors but none of the 50 were exonerated. Family members and
5 activists are still working towards exoneration and

6 WHEREAS, In commemoration of African American Appreciation Month, the San
7 Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission adjourned its February meeting with a moment of
8 silence in respect and gratitude for the historic sacrifices of the brave young men of Port
9 Chicago, many of whom, at an average of only 19 years of age, gave the ultimate sacrifice in
10 the service of our Country, and

11 RESOLVED, As we approach the 71st Anniversary of the Port Chicago explosion, the
12 San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby respectfully memorializes the Congress and
13 our Commander-in-Chief, President Barack Obama to vacate the unjust convictions of these
14 brave men, and to elevate their military records to show the appropriate designation of
15 Honorable Discharge; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
17 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States,
18 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each Senator and Representative from
19 California in the Congress of the United States.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 150743

Date Passed: July 14, 2015

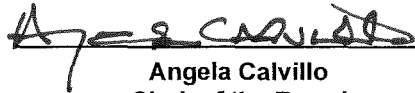
Resolution commemorating the 71st Anniversary of the Port Chicago disaster and urging the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to exonerate the 50 U.S. Navy Sailors convicted of mutiny in the incident with the designation of Honorable Discharge.

July 14, 2015 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Christensen, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 150743

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/14/2015 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

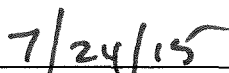
Unsigned

Mayor

7/24/15

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board



Date