**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**

**1601 7TH STREET, SANGER, CA 93657-280**

**103rd Annual Department Convention, Visalia, California**

**June 23-26, 2022**

**Department Resolution No. \_\_2022-015\_\_**

# Subject: EXONERATE THE “PORT CHICAGO FIFTY” AND “PHILADELPHIA FIFTEEN”

# RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, US Navy sailors were unjustly punished in the 1940s because they were Black, at a time when institutional racism was worse, segregation was the norm, and Blacks were disproportionately disciplined for infractions that arguably did not rise to the severity of their treatment or their punishment; and

WHEREAS, The two famous courts-martial of Black sailors were the “Port Chicago Fifty” for protesting unsafe ammunition handling practices after the deaths of 320 servicemen and the “Philadelphia Fifteen” for writing a letter to a newspaper describing shipboard abuse and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Navy can sign a document that clears the Port Chicago Fifty and Philadelphia Fifteen, under authority granted by title 10 USC 1552, wherein the Secretary can “remove an injustice” from the record of a United States Navy sailor; now therefore, be it

# RESOLVED, That The American Legion in a Department of California Convention assembled in Visalia, CA, on June 23-28, 2022, urges Secretary of the Navy to sign a document to remove an injustice and by collaborating with Congress to exonerate these Sailors and upgrade their discharges to honorable.

This is to certify that the above resolution was adopted by Post, District, and Department

\_\_Arles DeMayo\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_5/17/2022\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_Paul Del Rosario\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5/17/2022\_\_\_

Post Commander Date Post Adjutant Date

\_\_Warlito Moises\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_6/5/2022\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_Robert Safreno\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_6/5/2022\_\_\_

District Commander Date District Adjutant Date

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Department Commander Date Department Adjutant Date

Original Author (Print): \_\_Nestor Aliga\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Post #\_\_603\_\_\_