

(d) Resolutions, Endorsements and Advice Letters to Mayor and Board of Supervisors (2015)

> Resolution on Justice for Port Chicago Fifty

SFVAC Commissioner Angela Jenkins first introduced this complex issue to the Commission in September of 2014. The issue of finding a meaningful way to address the injustice suffered by fifty African American Sailors, wrongly convicted of Mutiny in the aftermath of a horrific explosion at a bomb-loading pier called "Port Chicago" in the northern reaches of San Francisco Bay in 1944, was developed at each subsequent meeting. At the February 10, 2015 VAC meeting, the final draft of a Resolution urging the S.F. Board of Supervisors and Mayor to bring Restorative Justice to the US Navy Sailors of Port Chicago was unanimously adopted. The Resolution was distributed to numerous bay area agencies, organizations and political leaders with a request for adoption of supportive Resolutions and advocacy for Federal Action as called for in the Resolution.

The SFVAC is honored to report that through the unrelenting efforts of Commissioner Jenkins and other members of the "Port Chicago Study Team", this advocacy met with great success.

In the ensuing months the issue gained Supportive "Mirror Resolutions" from:

- Veterans for Peace, Chapter 69, San Francisco
- American Legion, Post 315 of San Francisco
- The S.F. Lions Veterans Club of San Francisco
- The Human Rights Commission of San Francisco

The culmination of this surge of interest and advocacy resulted in the adoption of a Resolution by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, on July 14, 2015 to "Commemorate 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 US Navy Sailors convicted of mutiny in the incident with the designation of Honorable Discharge."

In a City Hall ceremony at the Board of Supervisors General meeting of 7/14/15, the SFVAC was presented with a Certificate of Commendation (Authored by Supv. Cohen, and signed by the attending members of the BOS), "In recognition of its efforts to promote the history of the Port Chicago Memorial, and in appreciation of our advocacy for justice for the survivors of the Port Chicago Disaster."