

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
1601 7TH STREET, SANGER, CA 93657
2025 Department Convention – June 26-29, 2025
Visalia, CA 93291

Department Resolution No. 2025 - 019

Subject: PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR DESCENDANTS OF PORT CHICAGO 256 AND PHILADELPHIA 15

Origin: CaLegion Manuel L. Quezon Post 603

Submitted By: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net

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, in 2022, the The American Legion Department of California adopted the resolution titled, “2022-015: Exonerate The “Port Chicago Fifty” and “Philadelphia Fifteen;” and
WHEREAS, it was announced on June 16, 2023, that “The Department of the Navy Announces Correction to Records of the ‘Philadelphia 15’ and on 17 July 2024, that “the Secretary of the Navy Exonerates 256 Defendants from 1944 Port Chicago General and Summary Courts-martial.”; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of California at the Department Convention in Visalia, California, on June 26-29, 2025 that the Secretary of the Veterans Affairs must contact all the descendants of the exonerated Sailors and to insure that those descendants get any available benefits that they may be currently entitled.

This is to certify by the signatures below that the above Resolution was passed as described:

Paul del Rosario / Raymond Hart

April 17, 2025

Adjutant, Post / Commander, Post

Date

Adjutant, District

Date

Department Commander

Date

Department Adjutant

Date