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Port Chicago Alliance Fact Sheet

1. Organization Overview

- **Name:** Port Chicago Alliance
- **Type:** 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- **Founded:** 2022
- **Mission Statement:** The Port Chicago Alliance (PCA) is a Bay Area-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to preserving history, educating the public, and advancing justice. We honor the legacy of the Black American Sailors of Port Chicago by engaging youth, informing communities, and advocating for restitution—ensuring their courage, sacrifice, and contributions to civil rights and World War II are never forgotten.
- **Vision Statement:** We envision a nation where the Port Chicago Sailors are fully recognized as American heroes, their families receive long-overdue justice, and their story becomes an essential part of American education, civic pride, and cultural memory. Through remembrance, advocacy, and community empowerment, we strive to inspire future generations to stand for fairness, service, accountability, and self-pride.
- **EIN:** 99-1964611
- **Number of students/schools served by PCA educational programming:** 300+

2. Core Purpose & Focus Areas

- **Justice & Policy Advocacy:** Advancing legislation for historical justice — including Port Chicago Remembrance Day and national recognition — for the Sailors and their families.
- **Education & Public History:** School programs, archives, digital resources, exhibits, Port Chicago Trail, and public events like Port Chicago Weekend.
- **Descendant Outreach & Restitution:** Working with the Navy and legal partners to locate families and secure benefits.

3. Quick Facts – Port Chicago Incident (Explosion and Aftermath)

- Date of the explosion: July 17, 1944
- Lives Lost and Injured: 320 Sailors and civilians killed, 390 injured
- Date of the protest: August 9, 1944
- Number of Sailors protesting orders: 258 Sailors
- Number of Sailors court-martialed and convicted: 50 Sailors
- Date of exoneration by the U.S. Navy: July 17, 2024

4. Quick Facts – Visit Port Chicago

- Number of locations on the Port Chicago Trail: 7
- Locations: Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, Treasure Island Museum, Mare Island, Thurgood Marshall Regional Park: Home of the Port Chicago 50, Golden Gate Cemetery, Red Oak Victory Ship, African American Museum & Library at Oakland

5. Key Accomplishments

- Successfully helped secure federal recognition and Navy exoneration in 2024
- Organized Port Chicago Weekend (2024 & 2025 events)

- Partnerships with U.S. Navy, national law firms, school districts, museums, Visit Concord, etc.
- Launch of the PortChicago50.com archive and Visit Port Chicago website
- Port Chicago Remembrance Day proclaimed in 47 cities

6. PCA Leadership

- Executive Director/Founder: Yulie Padmore
- Managing Director: Stephen Padmore
- Board Members: Lewis Thrower, Hiram Crittenden, Sharon Crittenden
- Advisory Board Members: Damian Rainey, Josh Sonnenfeld

7. Current Initiatives & Goals

- Locating descendants and securing restitution
- Expanding educational programming and digital archives
- Preparing Port Chicago Weekend 2026
- National and state-level resolutions and policy advocacy
- Development of the Port Chicago Trail and visitor resources

8. Frequently Requested Facts:

- **What was the Port Chicago disaster?**

The Port Chicago disaster was a massive explosion on July 17, 1944, at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in California. Munitions being loaded onto a ship detonated, killing 320 Sailors and civilians and injuring 390 others. Most of the Sailors killed were young Black enlisted men working under hazardous and segregated

conditions. It was the deadliest home front disaster of World War II.

- **Why is it historically significant?**

The disaster exposed the U.S. Navy's racially segregated labor practices, unnecessarily hazardous working conditions, and lack of proper training. After the explosion, 50 Black Sailors refused to resume loading ammunition under the same hazardous and discriminatory conditions. Their protest and subsequent trial became a catalyst for national conversation about civil rights, military segregation, and justice—ultimately helping prompt the desegregation of the U.S. Navy in 1946.

- **Why were the Sailors convicted?**

Following the disaster, 50 Sailors refused to continue loading ammunition due to unsafe conditions. The Navy charged them with mutiny—the most serious military offense—without recognizing their protest as a legitimate request for safe working conditions. Denied due process in a racially biased trial, all 50 were convicted and sentenced to prison despite having no intent to overthrow command.

- **What does exoneration mean today?**

Exoneration means formally clearing the Port Chicago Sailors of their wrongful convictions. In July 2024, the U.S. Navy officially exonerated 256 Port Chicago Sailors, acknowledging that they were unjustly tried and that racism and unsafe practices contributed to their actions. Exoneration restores their honor,

corrects the historical record, and paves the way for restitution for their families.

- **What is PCA's role in this history?**

The Port Chicago Alliance (PCA) preserves the history of the Port Chicago Sailors, advocates for justice, and supports their descendants. PCA leads public education and youth programs, oversees historical preservation, and advances legislative initiatives like Port Chicago Remembrance Day. Our members have successfully advocated to name Thurgood Marshall Regional Park: Home of the Port Chicago 50, pushed for resolutions supporting exoneration, and organized letters and calls to the Navy urging official exoneration. Through these efforts, PCA ensures the Sailors' legacy is honored, remembered, and passed on to future generations.

9. Contact & Media Information

- Media Contact: Yulie Padmore, Executive Director
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- Website: PortChicagoAlliance.org / VisitPortChicago.com
- Social Media Accounts:
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/portchicago50
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/PortChicago
- X/Twitter: www.x.com/PortChicago50
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/@PortChicago50

10. Press Kit Download Links

- Photos:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ob21olAxn91ZCkk4M85FXobC9_kpHfvH/view

- Logos:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g_cai1htpat575ijYhcCGCfBnrW-4iRe/view
