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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Port Chicago Alliance Establishes Dr. Robert L. Allen Legacy Award

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Port Chicago Alliance has established the Dr. Robert L. Allen Legacy Award, an annual honor recognizing individuals whose contributions preserve history, advance civil rights and carry forward the pursuit of justice.

Named for pioneering historian, author, educator and Black freedom activist Dr. Robert L. Allen, and established with the support of his family, the award honors a scholar whose work transformed public understanding of Port Chicago and its significance in American history.

Allen's landmark book, *The Port Chicago Mutiny*, brought national attention to the 1944 Port Chicago disaster, the protest by 258 Black Sailors that followed, and the court-martial of 50 men on charges of mutiny. Through extensive research and interviews with the Sailors themselves, Allen helped ensure that their accounts of courage, resistance and injustice became part of the American historical record.

His influence extended well beyond Port Chicago. Allen authored *Black Awakening in Capitalist America*, an influential examination of Black Power, capitalism and the struggle for Black liberation, and served for decades as senior editor of *The Black Scholar*, a leading journal of Black studies and political thought.

For decades, Allen also worked alongside surviving Port Chicago Sailors, their families, elected officials, attorneys, advocates and community leaders to preserve their stories and pursue recognition and justice. That long effort helped sustain a movement that ultimately culminated in the historic 2024 exoneration of the Port Chicago 50.

The Dr. Robert L. Allen Legacy Award carries that tradition forward by recognizing individuals who deepen public understanding of Port Chicago, preserve the experiences of the Sailors and their families, and advance their place in American history.

The award reflects the Port Chicago Alliance's commitment to ensuring that Port Chicago is understood not simply as a wartime tragedy, but as a defining chapter in World War II, the desegregation of the United States military and the modern American civil rights movement.

Through the annual award, the Port Chicago Alliance honors the legacy of a scholar who ensured the Sailors were heard — and those who continue the work he helped begin.

About the Port Chicago Alliance

The Port Chicago Alliance works to preserve and advance public understanding of the Port Chicago story through historical research, education, public programming, preservation and commemorative initiatives.

Event Information

Mutiny at Port Chicago: Black Resistance and Redemption

Saturday, July 11, 2026

1:00–3:00 p.m.

James Moore Theater
Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Tickets: \$10

For tickets and additional information, visit [PortChicagoWeekend.org](https://portchicagoweekend.org).