



National Museum of the American Sailor

July 2023
Newsletter



Last month, NMAS highlighted the Women's Armed Services Integration Act which President Truman signed into law in 1948. Truman had a busy summer that year. In addition to allowing women permanent military status, Truman also signed Executive Order 9981, eliminating discrimination based on "race, color, religion, or national origin" within the Armed Forces. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of this important step toward equality, check out a Sailor Spotlight about a Chinese American Chief, discover how Executive Order 9981 came to be in the blog post, and take a peek at a post-WWII photograph.

"I want the job done, and I want it done in a way so that everyone will be happy to cooperate."

PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN, 1949

Sailor Spotlight: Chief Steward Yung Chin Chang



When we think of racial discrimination, we usually focus on the experiences of Black Americans, but other racial minorities were also on the receiving end of injustice. Chief Yung Chin Chang immigrated to the United States as a young man. He enlisted in the Navy in the 1930s. At the time of Chang's enlistment, the Navy barred "non-white" sailors from skilled rates. As a result, Chief Chang was relegated to the subservient rate of steward. He served valiantly during the 1930s and throughout World War II. During the war, Chang was first aboard USS *Luzon* (ARG 2). It was likely in 1942, after the purposeful scuttle of *Luzon*, that Chief Chang was taken as a prisoner of war. He was held at Cavite. Life in Cavite was characterized by disease, overcrowding, heavy labor, and near starvation. Chief Chang survived the imprisonment and continued to serve in the Navy until 1961. He died in 2009 at the ripe old age of 98.

Upcoming Events

Bricks and Bluejackets: A LEGO Event

Saturday, August 26 at 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Calling all junior shipbuilders! Build a Navy ship in LEGO form and use your imagination to create your own Navy-inspired design for a chance to win a LEGO Store gift card. This event is perfect for pre-K and elementary-aged students.

EDUCATION
AND EVENTS

New This Summer: Fridays at NMAS

Guided Museum Tours

Every Friday at 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM

Come see the museum galleries in a new light! Docent-led tours are now available every Friday at 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM. These 30-minute gallery walks include stories not shared in the exhibit panels, behind-the-scenes stories of creating these exhibits, and an opportunity to ask your burning Navy questions.



Sea Stories

Every Other Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Sailors are known for their elaborate stories from their travels around the world. Now is your chance to hear those stories straight from the horse's (err goat's?) mouth. Every other Friday, Navy veterans and active duty sailors are on duty to share their stories with you. Ask them about their bootcamp days, their favorite ports, the food; the possibilities are endless.

Drop Anchor Programs

Every Other Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Get hands on history with our new Drop Anchor programs. For kids, and kids at heart, these interactive activities teach sailor skills, including knot tying and the all-important hardtack recipe. Participants make and take a project each program.



Blog Post: Free to Serve



To commemorate the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9981, this month's blog post is exploring the history behind that historic policy change. Who advocated for this act? How did it come into being?

Museum volunteer LT Jamieson P. tackles these questions and more in this month's blog post.

Read the blog on [Sailor's Attic](#).

COLLECTIONS
AND
RESEARCH

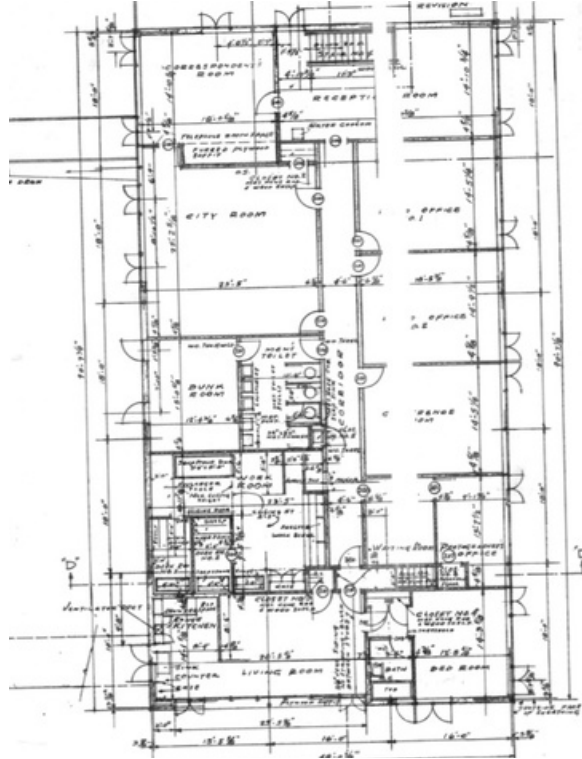
Artifact Spotlight: Photograph, ca. 1948

Only a decade or so before this photograph was taken in approximately 1948, it would have seemed quite strange to many Americans. The pre-World War II Navy was characterized by racial discrimination, with "non-white" sailors prohibited from serving in most ratings and barred from advancing to higher ranks. With the creation of Executive Order 9981, the Navy's racist policies were overturned. Still, it would be an uphill battle for sailors of color. Fortunately some sailors, like those pictured here, were faster than others to accept their diverse shipmates.



What's in the Rest of the Building?

Museum staff often get asked, "What's upstairs? Is there a basement?" People are always curious about what else Building 42 has in store. While the building's second floor now houses staff offices, its former role was a bit more interesting. Back in the 1940s, when the building was used as a Hostess House, the second deck was the hostess' living quarters. Staff recently came across blueprints that show the hostess' bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom.



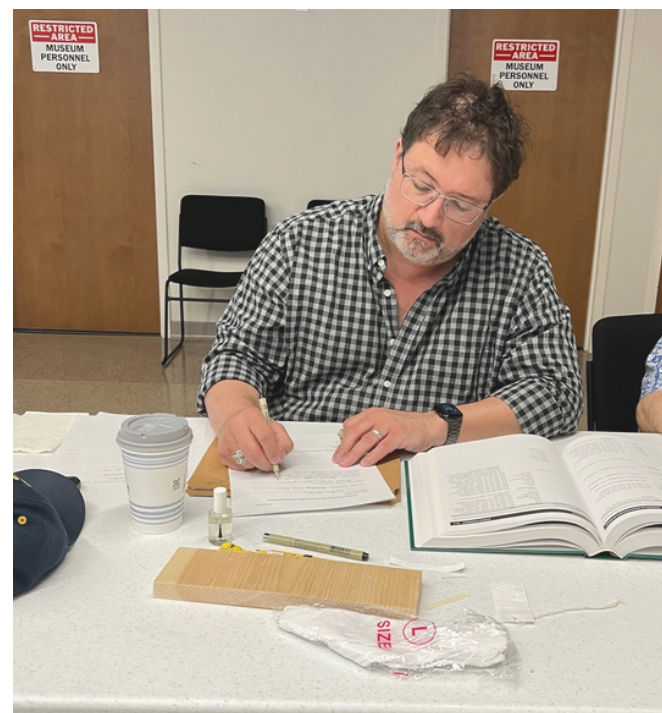
The building's basement is similar. Today the basement is the museum's collections storage, a state-of-the-art vault where artifacts and archival documents are stored. But in earlier years, the basement held locker rooms and recreation spaces for sailors. These spaces are usually off limits to visitors, but every so often, the collections vault welcomes VIP or special tours where you can imagine the spaces in an earlier era.

EXHIBITS

Collections Volunteers Learn The Tools of the Trade

In June, the NMAS collections volunteers all met with Collections Manager Sam B., Deputy Director Kelly D., and Curator of Education Tricia M. to learn how to properly care for and catalog artifacts and archival documents. This dedicated team is working with Sam to catalog the museum's entire collection!

VOLUNTEERS
AND
OUTREACH



**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE AMERICAN SAILOR**

WE ARE RECRUITING NEW VOLUNTEERS!

**SATURDAY
OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE!**

Help us tell the story of the United States Navy's enlisted sailor! The National Museum of the American Sailor has a wide variety of positions available to volunteers. There are several new and exciting volunteer opportunities. We're currently in need of volunteers to help as:

- Exhibits and Facilities Assistant
- Front Desk Greeter(s)

INTERESTED IN COMING ABOARD?

**REACH OUT TO US AT:
(847) 688-3154 X215 OR
NHHC_NMAS@US.NAVY.MIL**

