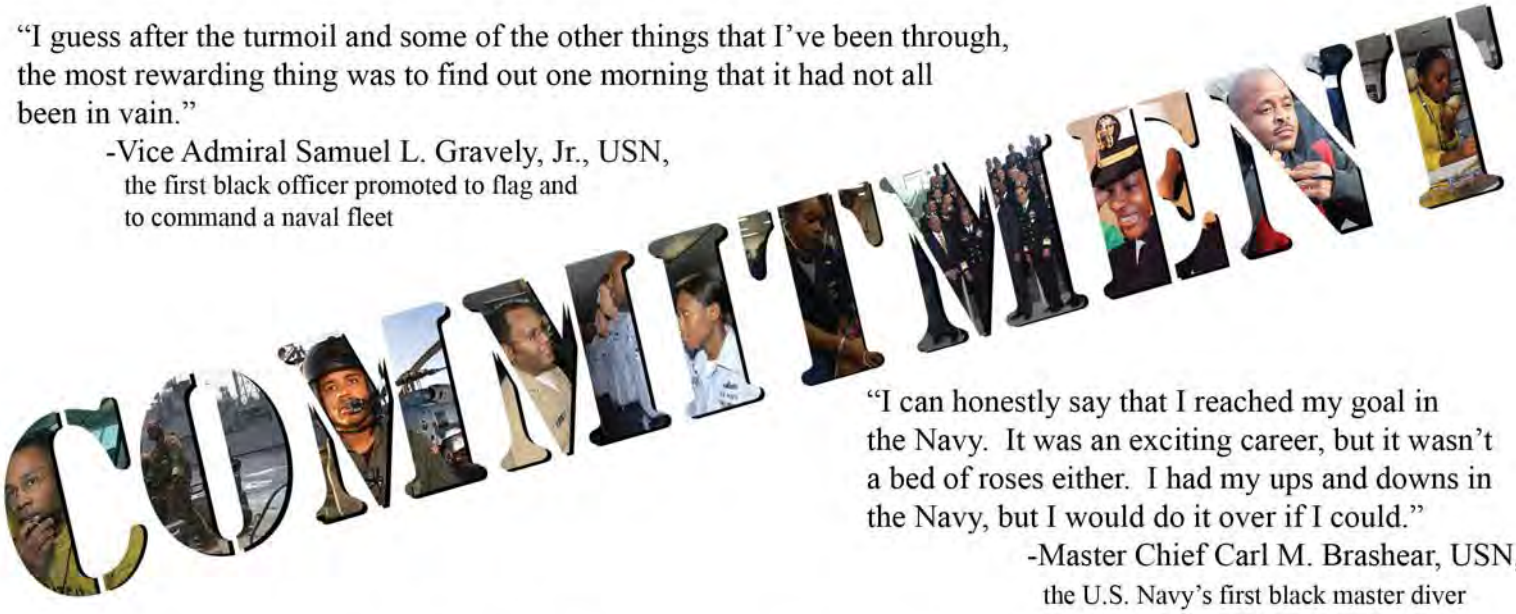
"I guess after the turmoil and some of the other things that I've been through, the most rewarding thing was to find out one morning that it had not all been in vain."

-Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., USN,
the first black officer promoted to flag and to command a naval fleet



"I can honestly say that I reached my goal in the Navy. It was an exciting career, but it wasn't a bed of roses either. I had my ups and downs in the Navy, but I would do it over if I could."

-Master Chief Carl M. Brashear, USN,
the U.S. Navy's first black master diver

The stories in the flyer represent only a fraction of African American successes in the United States Navy. To learn more about the African American experience in the nation's sea service, and the U.S. Navy's current diversity initiatives, please visit the Naval History and Heritage Command's website: www.history.navy.mil

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE ★ COMMAND ★

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN THE U.S. NAVY

★ CIVIL WAR ★ SPANISH AMERICAN WAR ★ PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION

★ CHINA RELIEF-BOXER REBELLION ★ LATIN AMERICAN CAMPAIGNS ★ WWI

★ YANGTZE SERVICE ★ CHINA SERVICE ★ WWII ★ COLD WAR

★ KOREAN CONFLICT ★ VIETNAM SERVICE ★ DESERT SHIELD-DESERT STORM

★ KOSOVO CONFLICT ★ GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Cook Third Class Doris Miller receives the Navy Cross

African Americans have a long heritage of service, first with state and continental navies, and then with the Department of the Navy since its establishment in 1798. They continue to distinguish themselves ashore, on ships, in flying crafts, and on submarines in times peace, and disaster recovery. They participate in global humanitarian and partnership programs. Today's black sailors stand proudly knowing the accomplishments of their predecessors, including the eight black sailors who earned the Medal of Honor during the Civil War, Dick Henry Turpin, one of the survivors of the explosion aboard the Maine and the 14 black female yeoman who enlisted during World War I. The Navy planted the seeds for racial integration during World War II and trained a generation of outstanding African American officer and enlisted personnel who provided critical leadership and expertise during the Cold War.

Black sailor on Civil War ship USS *Monitor*

During the 1960s and 1970s, blacks began commanding ships, submarines, and shore establishments. Master Chief Carl Brashear became the Navy's first black master diver. In 1974, the Navy issued its first Navy Equal Opportunity Manual and two years later issued its first Navy Affirmative Action Plan. As in previous periods, black officers and enlisted personnel are among the Navy's best in 2010. Commander Keith Hoskins spent three seasons with the Blue Angels. Hoskins became a naval aviator because his father encouraged him to dream big. 'Regardless of who you are, what your color is,' Hoskins said, 'the military will honor and credit those who perform.' Command Master Chief Evelyn Banks is setting new standards at the Naval Academy. There are 16 black admirals in Navy and 1 in the Coast Guard. Vice Admiral Melvin L. Williams and Rear Admiral Victory Guillory command the Navy's Second and Fourth fleets, respectively. Rear Admiral Michelle Howard is Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group Two. African American civilians are also excelling in the Department of the Navy. Janie L. Mines, the first black female Naval Academy graduate is a Senior Executive in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy. As of November 2009, 20.3 percent of Navy enlisted Sailors, and 7.8 percent of Navy officers were African American. The Navy is more racially and ethnically diverse than it ever has been and because of that is better prepared to be a global force for good.

Commander Keith Hoskins

Rear Admiral Michelle Howard