

**NATIONAL**

# AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Established in 1926 as Negro History Week, President Gerald R. Ford expanded the celebration in 1976 to include the entire month of February. This year, Navy commands are encouraged to celebrate and reflect on the theme "A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture."

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN SAILORS

fought on every every kind of Union warship, accounting for

**10 TO 20%**  
of each ship's crew

and included

**8** MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS



### CIVIL WAR 1861 - 1865

## THE GOLDEN THIRTEEN



**MAR 1864** 12 prior-enlisted black servicemen were commissioned as ensigns  
AND A 13<sup>TH</sup> was made a warrant officer

1<sup>ST</sup> group of black servicemen to complete officer training in the Navy and led the way for future African-Americans.

BY THE END OF THE WAR 64 African-Americans had become officers in the Navy

### WORLD WAR II 1939 - 1945

## DORIS MILLER



The **1<sup>ST</sup>** African American

to receive the



**Navy Cross**

for his act of bravery during Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941)

1942



## EDNA YOUNG

The **FIRST** Black woman

- ★ to enlist in the regular Navy
- ★ to achieve the rank of petty officer

1948

## WESLEY A. BROWN



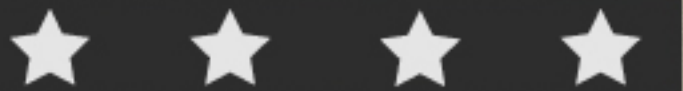
The **FIRST** Black Graduate of the **UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY**

CLASS OF 1949

1949

## ADMIRAL J. PAUL REASON

The **1<sup>ST</sup>** Black Naval Officer to wear **4 Stars**



AND

assumed command of the **Atlantic Fleet**

- ★ 200 warships
- ★ 1,500 aircraft
- ★ 122,000 men & women based at 18 major shore facilities



DECEMBER 1996

## CARL BRASHEAR

The **FIRST** African American

to become a

**U.S. Navy Master Diver**



1970

The **FIRST** African American

to command a

NAVY SHIP *USS Theodore E. Chandler (DD 717)*

NAVY WARSHIP *USS Falgout (DE 324)*

NAVY WARSHIP UNDER COMBAT CONDITIONS *USS Taussig (DD 746)*

NAVY MAJOR COMMAND WARSHIP *USS Jouett (CG29)*

NUMBERED NAVY FLEET (*Third Fleet*)



## VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVELY JR.

34 YEARS OF SERVICE (1965 - 1999)

## ADMIRAL MICHELLE HOWARD

The **FIRST** African American Woman

- ★ to command a U.S. Navy ship
- ★ promoted to two-star and three-star admiral
- ★ to serve as Vice Chief of Naval Operations
- ★ to be a four-star admiral



1982 - PRESENT



USS Gravely | COMMISSIONED ON NOVEMBER 20, 2010

## AFRICAN AMERICANS

continue to serve with distinction

now comprising more than **17%**

of our active duty Navy total force end-strength

PRESENT DAY