



CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

IT'S IN THE CREED

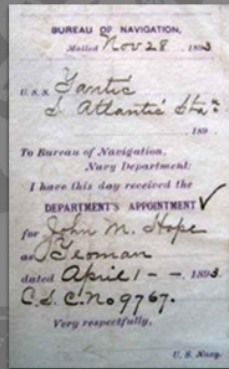


DECKPLATE LEADERS

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS MAKE UP THE HIGHEST ENLISTED RANKS IN THE U.S. NAVY. KNOWN AS "DECKPLATE LEADERS" CHIEFS ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN OFFICERS AND JUNIOR ENLISTED.

APRIL 1, 1893

DATE PROCLAIMED BY NAVY CIRCULAR #1 (EARLY NAVADMIN MESSAGE) THAT CREATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHIEF PETTY OFFICER RANK.



FIRST FEMALE CHIEF

ON MARCH 21, 1917, LORETTA WALSH BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WHEN SWORN IN AS A CHIEF YEOMAN.



GOATLOCKER

FROM THE AGE OF SAIL TO STEAM, GOATS WERE KEPT ABOARD SHIPS IN SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS KNOWN AS "GOAT LOCKERS." STUBBORN, SURE-FOOTED AND TOUGH, GOATS WERE USED FOR THEIR FRESH MILK AND MEAT - THEY ALSO HELPED LIFT UP MORALE. GOAT LOCKERS WERE EVENTUALLY ADOPTED BY CHIEFS WHO KEPT THE NAME AND ADOPTED THE GOAT MONIKER.



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NUMBER OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS THAT HAVE EARNED THE MEDAL OF HONOR.



DECKPLATES TO KEELS

CHIEFS ARE SO VITAL TO THE NAVY THAT TWO SHIPS HAVE BEEN NAMED USS CHIEF (BOTH MINESWEEPERS).



OLDEST RATINGS

SINCE 1797, ONLY TWO RATINGS HAVE CONTINUOUSLY INCLUDED CHIEFS AMONG THEIR RANKS: BOATSWAIN'S MATE AND GUNNER'S MATE.

FOULED ANCHOR

THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CAP DEVICE WAS AUTHORIZED IN 1897. CPO COLLAR DEVICES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1959.

ROCKER DEVICE

THE ADVENT OF A ROCKER DEVICE WAS THE FIRST INSIGNIA FOR CHIEFS TO WEAR, AND WAS ORIGINALLY BORROWED FROM THE MASTER-AT-ARMS RATING. IT BECAME OFFICIAL IN 1894.

CREED

THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE CPO CREED WAS WRITTEN IN THE LATE 1940S. READING THE CREED BECAME A FIXTURE IN THE TRANSITION OF A FIRST CLASS TO THE VISIBLE, CONFIDENTLY HUMBLE DECKPLATE LEADERS CHIEFS STRIVE TO BE.

