

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

**IN RECOGNITION OF PORT CHICAGO REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
**July 17, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine, located approximately 20 miles northeast of Albany, California, was the site where African American Sailors were exclusively assigned during World War II to the dangerous task of loading explosives onto cargo ships; and

**WHEREAS**, on the night of July 17, 1944, a catastrophic explosion resulted in the deadliest home front disaster of the war – killing 320 people, most of them African American Sailors, injuring 390 others, and inflicting widespread damage on the nearby town of Port Chicago, California; and

**WHEREAS**, 258 surviving African American Sailors, citing unaddressed safety concerns, protested the order to resume loading munitions, drawing national attention to racial discrimination and hazardous working conditions in the military, and

**WHEREAS**, 50 of those Sailors, known as the Port Chicago 50, were wrongfully charged and convicted of mutiny; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 17, 2024, following persistent advocacy from the City of Albany and other supporters urging action, President Joe Biden authorized Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro, who formally exonerated the Port Chicago 50 and all 258 Sailors involved, affirming the injustice they suffered and recognizing their actions as a pivotal moment in civil rights and military history.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Albany hereby proclaims July 17<sup>th</sup> as Port Chicago Remembrance Day, to honor the victims of the Port Chicago disaster, recognize the bravery and legacy of the Port Chicago Sailors, and educate future generations about this defining chapter in American history.

DATED: July 7, 2025  
*City of Albany Proclamation No. 2025-18*



ROBIN D. LÓPEZ, MAYOR