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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Port Chicago Alliance Receives Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Barbara Lee

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Port Chicago Alliance (PCA) received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from The Honorable Congresswoman Barbara Lee, representing California's 12th Congressional District, during a presentation held on July 18, 2025, at the African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO).

The recognition honors PCA's commitment to preserving and advancing public understanding of the civil rights legacy of the Port Chicago Naval Magazine and the Black Sailors whose service and resistance altered the course of U.S. military and civil rights history.

The certificate states, in part:

“On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of California, I honor your unwavering commitment to preserving the civil rights legacy of Port Chicago’s Naval Magazine. As the nation reflects upon the 80th Anniversary of the Port Chicago Disaster, I am proud to celebrate the exoneration of the 258 Black Sailors who were court-martialed after refusing to return to unsafe work conditions. With justice finally served, may the world never forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.”

The presentation coincided with national reflection on the 80th anniversary of the Port Chicago Disaster, the deadliest home-front disaster of World War II, and followed the July 17, 2024 exoneration of the Port Chicago Sailors by the U.S. Department of the Navy.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee long championed the effort to secure justice for the Port Chicago Sailors, advocating for their exoneration and helping elevate their story within Congress and the national conscience.

PCA’s work focuses on historical preservation, public education, advocacy, and place-based interpretation, including collaboration with descendants of the Port Chicago Sailors to ensure their legacy is accurately documented and shared.

The recognition acknowledges PCA's role in stewarding this history at a moment of long-awaited accountability and renewed public understanding of Port Chicago's significance in American history.

About the Port Chicago Alliance

The Port Chicago Alliance (PCA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to honoring the heroism and civil rights contributions of the Port Chicago Sailors, advancing equity and justice, and educating the public about the Port Chicago incident and its legacy. Learn more at www.PortChicagoAlliance.org.

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