

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 1944

12 prior-enlisted black servicemen were commissioned as ensigns

AND A

13TH was made a warrant officer

1ST 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 **1ST** 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 **1ST** 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