

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on the fateful night of July 17, 1944, an explosion rocked the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in California, resulting in one of the deadliest disasters on U.S. soil during World War II;

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the explosion, the Port Chicago 50, a group of African American sailors, were subjected to racial discrimination and unjust treatment as they were ordered to clean up the hazardous and highly dangerous debris without proper training or equipment;

WHEREAS, the Port Chicago 50, in their refusal to continue performing work under unsafe conditions, demonstrated courageous acts of protest against the systemic racism and injustice that plagued our nation;

WHEREAS, their actions led to their court-martial and subsequent unjust convictions, further highlighting the racial bias and discrimination prevalent in the justice system

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we recognize the hardships endured by the Port Chicago 50 and stand in solidarity with their struggle for justice and exoneration.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the City Council of the City of Brentwood stand in support of the exoneration of the Port Chicago 50. Let us come together as a community to honor the bravery, resilience, and unwavering spirit of the Port Chicago 50, and advocate for their exoneration from unjust convictions.

May this proclamation serve as a call to action for further examination and acknowledgement of the racial injustices of the past, and a commitment to equitable treatment and equal opportunities for all individuals.

Dated this 10th day of October, 2023

Joel Bryant, Mayor