



Meridian

June 2007

Magazine of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) - Gateway to success

Navy's First Black Captain Dies

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy's first black Sailor to be promoted to the rank of captain died April 16 in Norfolk.

Funeral services for retired Capt. Thomas David Parham were held April 21, at 1 p.m. at the Little Creek Amphibious Base chapel. The Reverend Dr. Barry C. Black, U.S. Senate chaplain and retired U.S. Navy chief of Chaplains delivered the eulogy.

Parham, 87, was commissioned in 1944 and promoted to captain in February 1966. He was also the second black chaplain in the Navy.

Born March 21, 1920, in Newport News, Va., Parham earned a bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central University in 1941. He then graduated magna cum laude from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1944, and was ordained by the United Presbyterian Church on May 17, 1944.

While five other members of his seminary class entered the Navy chaplaincy upon their graduation, Parham was told his application could not be accepted. He continued to work in a student pastorate in Youngstown, Ohio. Later that summer, he saw a newspaper photograph of a recently commissioned black chaplain. When he returned to the officer who had earlier rejected his application and asked why, he was told, "We can take your application now."

His first duty assignments included Naval Training School, Hampton, Va.; Camp Smalls at Great Lakes, Ill.; Manana Barracks, Hawaii; and the Naval Supply Center, Guam; ministering to exclusively black units.

Parham left active duty in 1946

and returned to his ministry in Youngstown where he served as pastor from 1946 to 1950, while remaining in the Naval Reserve.

He returned to active duty in January 1951, soon after the outbreak of the Korean War. From 1951 to 1956, he was the only black chaplain on active duty.

After he had been given the impression that a black chaplain would never go to sea duty, he married Eulalee Marion Cordice on June 1, 1951.

Subsequently, when he was to be stationed on board USS Valley Forge (LPH-8), a captain complained to the Chaplains Division that Parham would be the only chaplain on the ship while the only black Sailors were a few stewards: The belief that black chaplains were only for black Sailors was predominant. Then Chief of Chaplains Stanton Salisbury published an article in the Christian Century stating that the Chaplains Division had no plans to give Parham any segregated duty, demonstrating the progress made in the Chaplains Division and in the Navy.

Parham's other duty stations included Charleston Navy Yard, S.C.; Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan; Naval Air Station Iwakuni, Japan; Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kan.; First Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Amphibious Squadron 1 and Marine Corps Recruiting Depot, San Diego; Naval Air Station and Commander Fleet Air, Quonset Point, R.I.; Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington; Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Md.; and Chief, Pastoral Care Service, Naval Region Medical Center, Portsmouth, Va.

In 1969, he earned a Master of Divinity at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. At American University he

received both a master's and a doctorate degree. Parham retired in April 1982.



Capt. Thomas David Parham, the Navy's first black Sailor to be promoted to the rank of captain, died April 16 in Norfolk, Va. Parham, 87, was commissioned in 1944 and promoted to captain in February 1966. Funeral services were held April 21, at 1 p.m., at the Little Creek Amphibious Base chapel. U.S. Navy photo (RELEASED)



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NNOA Mission Statement

National Naval Officers Association actively supports the Sea Services in the development of a diverse officer corps through recruitment, retention, and career development. NNOA is essential in maintaining operational readiness by providing professional development, mentoring, and support of cultural awareness. NNOA establishes and maintains a positive image of the Sea Services in communities and educational institutions.

NNOA Vision Statement

NNOA is the "Gateway to Success" in the Sea Services. We are innovative thinkers committed to a shared vision of leadership, professional exchange and networking. We are the premiere professional development organization in the Sea Services. Our members are empowered with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential. We are an invaluable partner in the Sea Services in the achievement of their recruitment, retention and readiness goals. We recognize our responsibility to our community as we promote and foster American ideals.

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Aviation Pioneer



William J. Powell Achievements:

- * In 1932, became the 1st black American pilot actually licensed in America.
- * Started the Bessie Coleman Aero Club to teach other blacks how to fly.
- * Organized the first all-black aviator air show, in 1931, which drew 15,000 visitors.



Greetings from the President

This past few months has really been an exciting and historical period for National Naval Officers Association.

Since the last publication of the Meridian, we have witnessed the passing of Chaplain Thomas Parham, the first African American to reach the rank of captain. We also bid farewell to Rear Adm. Norman Johnson, an NNOA Plank Owner who was interned with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on 11 May 2007. Rear Adm. Johnson's and Chaplain Parham's services to the Navy were pivotal moments for African Americans and made a lasting impact on our nation, our Navy and NNOA.

Coast Guard Rear Adm. Stephen Rochon and his wife Shirley celebrated 77 years of combined service to the Coast Guard and our nation on 18 May 2007 at an eloquent ceremony in Washington, D.C. Rear Adm. Rochon made history in the Coast Guard, rising from the rank of seaman to rear admiral and he is continuing this legacy as the first African American to be selected to serve as the director of the Executive Residence and chief usher of the White House. Rear Adm. Rochon and Shirley both dedicated their efforts to enhance diversity in the officer ranks of the Sea Services and I know they will continue to be strong supporters of NNOA. We wish you both fair winds and following seas.

I am pleased to announce that Rear Adm. Cecil E. Haney and Rear Adm. Victor G. Guillory were selected for promotion to Rear Admiral (Upper Half). Rear Adm. Michelle J. Howard pinned on her first star in a well attended ceremony at the Women's Memorial in April 2007 and Rear Adm. Bruce Groom pinned on his first star in a 1 June ceremony at the Pentagon. Additionally, Capt. Earl Gay was selected for promotion to rear admiral (Lower Half). All six are strong supporters of NNOA and we are very proud of their accom-



Capt. Bernard Jackson

plishments.

Final preparations for the National Conference are 95% complete and we have a full agenda. As you know, this is our 35th anniversary and if you have not registered please take the time to visit our website NOW www.nnoa.org to register for the conference. The Commandant of the Coast Guard, Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Chief of Naval Operations have confirmed their participation and I strongly encourage you to finalize plans to attend the conference and remember to bring a junior officer with you. The conference schedule is posted on the web site and as a reminder key conference events follow:

· Founders Day Reception, 1830 - 2100, 16 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom.

· Coast Guard Day Luncheon, 1130 - 1300, 17 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom. Adm. Thad Allen, commandant of the Coast Guard confirmed.

· First General Assembly, 1500 -1600, 17 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom.

· Navy Day Luncheon, 1130 - 1300, 18 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom. Vice Adm. John Harvey, chief of Naval Personnel, confirmed.

· Flag/General Officer & Senior Executive "State of the Organization (NNOA) brief, 1700 - 1800, 18 July 07, EWGP Bldg 401 - RM # 155.

· Youth Day Program, "Yes I Can", 0800 - 1930, 19 July 07. 32nd St. Naval Station & Admiral Baker Recreation Field.

· Marine Corps Day Luncheon, 1130 - 1300, 19 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom. Gen. James Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps confirmed.

· Spousal Workshop, 1315 - 1630, 19 July 07, Club Coronado Amphibian Room.

· Prayer Breakfast, 0800 - 1000, 20 July 07, Club Coronado Room. Pastor Walter G. Wells, PhD., Mt. Erie Baptist Church, confirmed.

· Chapter Presidents/Senior Chapter Representatives mandatory training session, 1715 - 1800, Club Coronado Ballroom.

· Awards Banquet "Salute to Our Founders", 1800 - 2400, 20 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom & Amphibian Room. Adm. Michael Mullen, chief of Naval Operations confirmed.

· 11 Worship Services; 0730 - 0755; 17, 18 & 19 July 07. NAB Chapel.

I look forward to seeing you and a record number of junior officers at the 2007 conference.

In closing, I am pleased to announce that the 2008 National Conference will be hosted by the Hampton Roads Chapter, so please plan accordingly. If you have questions or concerns please contact us via our Website, www.nnoa.org

Regards,

Captain Bernard Jackson,
Executive Board President
President@nnoa.org

California Maritime Academy Commissioning Ceremony



Several members of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of NNOA recently attended the California Maritime Academy's commissioning ceremony in northern California to show their support for future sea service officers. Above l-r: Rear Adm. Manson Brown, NNOA immediate past president, Coast Guard LT j.g. Miles Jenkins, former SFBA chapter treasurer, retired Navy Cmdr/ Denise McCallaCreary, vice president, SFBA chapter; Navy Cmdr. Tony Gordon, president SFBA Chapter, and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Darron Thompson, chair, Naval Science Department and officer-in-charge Merchant Marine Reserve (NROTC DET 71), California Maritime Academy, CSU.

Newly commissioned Navy and Coast Guard ensigns display their degrees. There were a total of 12 new commissioned officers, eight U.S. Navy and four U.S. Coast Guard.



Note from the National PAO: Capt. Anthony Cooper

The NNOA CY2007 Communications Plan has recently been posted to the organization's website under "Chapter Management Tools." Additionally, a two page Executive Summary has been posted. These documents are designed to provide the organization and its membership the tools to align our message and effectively communicate our story.

We encourage you to review these documents and most importantly, use them! Remember to provide us feedback on any media engagements your chapter supports.

Lastly, many of you will be taking photos at the upcoming national training conference in Coronado. In an effort to visually capture as much of the conference as possible, I ask that you electronically forward to me your images.

Some suggestions:

- Digital images should be high resolution, 300 dpi, 5"x 7"
- Identify the subject in the images
- Identify the photographer

Please contact me at pao@nnoa.org if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Tips for better photos

- Get close to your subject
- Catch your subject being natural
- Watch your light
- Include foreground
- Background is important, look for poles or wires protruding from your subject
- Be ready
- Shoot off center for effect
- Hold your camera steady
- Be creative
- Try shooting at different angles
- Focus, then focus again

Ground broken for Samuel L. Gravely Elementary School

By Lt. Col. Dawn Harrison
NNOA Marine Corps Representative

Several members of the Prince William County community gathered on April 23, 2007 to break ground on the Samuel L. Gravely Elementary School. The school will be named in honor of Vice Adm. Samuel L. Gravely who, among many other accomplishments, was the first African American to reach flag rank in the Navy.

In attendance were Gravely's widow, Alma Gravely, and David Gravely, their son. Members from Mrs. Gravely's church, who were instrumental in initiating the request to name to school after the late admiral, were also in attendance.

A middle school in another area of the county was originally considered to be named in honor of Gravely.

However, because the site for the elementary school was literally in the back yard of the Vice Adm. Gravely's Haymarket home and he took a deep interest in elementary school education, the school board decided to make a rare exception to waive its policy regarding school naming.

When initially contacted about the idea of naming a school after her husband, Mrs. Gravely thought it would be more appropriate to name the school after someone who had resided in Prince William County longer than the Gravelys. Martha Henley, who contacted Mrs. Gravely, replied "but they are not admirals." Mrs. Gravely gave her approval for community members to move forward with the request, but she did not actively participate in the process. She wanted to know that the school board's decision was based on what the county wanted and not her involvement.

Rear Adm. Vic Guillory was on hand to represent the Navy. He first met Gravely when Gravely was a captain and Guillory was an enlisted sailor. Guillory commented that Gravely "commanded a presence.

"He inspired me," said Guillory, "and gave me an opportunity to dream."

He hopes that Gravely Elementary School will inspire the students who attend and that some will join the Navy. Guillory also hopes that the students will do great things in the community and across the nation.

Also in attendance was the Gainesville District School Board Representative Donald Richardson, who is a neighbor of the Gravelys.

"This is important because Gravely was a role model,"



The ceremonial groundbreaking for the Samuel L. Gravely Elementary School attracted members of the Prince William County community and Navy representatives. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Mrs. Alma Gravely, widow of Vice Adm. Samuel L. Gravely, and Rear Adm. Vic Guillory, deputy director of Surface Warfare, both pictured in the center.



Rear Adm. Vic Guillory and Mrs. Alma Gravely pause for a photo following the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the Samuel L. Gravely Elementary School.

Richardson said. "This is not just about education and textbooks. He was a man who broke barriers. We are honoring his legacy."

Construction on the 17.9-acre school site began in January 2007. The school will open in September 2008.

Photograph now required for Navy officer service record

The Navy Bureau of Personnel recently announced that photographs are required for all officers of the Navy and the Navy Reserve, regardless of status, within 3 months after acceptance of each promotion.

The photographs submitted become the property of the United States Navy and are generally releasable under the Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5211.5E, Department of the Navy Privacy Act Program and Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5720.42F, Freedom of Information Act Program.

Per Navy Personnel Instruction 5665I, U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations reference), the preferred uniform shall be Service Khaki, uncovered. When Service Khaki is unavailable, any regulation uniform is acceptable.

The photograph shall:

- be in color
- display a full-length, three-quarter view of the member, left shoulder forward
- have a plain, flat background to provide sufficient contrast to highlight details of the uniform
- be 4 inches in width and 6 inches in height.

Title board specifications require a menu or hand-lettered title board that shall be placed at or near the member's left foot so it is clearly readable in the finished photograph.

The title board shall contain the following identifying data in 2-inch high letters:

- Member's last name, first name and middle initial(s).
- Grade, last four digits of the social security number, and designator.
- Date photograph was taken (day, month, year).

**Example: APILOT, IRA M.
LCDR/1234/1310 17 APR 07**

Naval activities with an established photographic facility are

authorized to produce photographs for this purpose. Additionally, commercial sources are authorized. When Navy or Department of Defense photographic facilities or suitable commercial sources are unavailable, any photograph that complies with the requirements will be accepted.

Commands are authorized to reimburse officers that use commercial sources to produce photographs.

Commands are authorized to reimburse officers for the cost of the official photograph. Officers will complete SF 1164 (Rev. 11-77), Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business, or similar reimbursement document and submit the form with official documentary evidence (e.g., receipts, affidavits, or other statement as to the unavailability of government photo facilities) to their commanding officer (or designated representative) for approval and reimbursement.

Officers are required to complete NAVPERS Form 1070/884 (04-07), Officer Photograph, and attach the unaltered photograph. The preferred method of attachment is to print the photograph directly on the form. Taping or stapling the photograph to the form is acceptable should printing directly on the form not be available. Ensure this form contains the member's complete social security number for Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) identification purposes.

The member must sign the form, carefully secure the photograph against damage in the mail and forward to Navy Personnel Command (PERS-312C) for inclusion in the OMPF. The complete mailing address is:

**NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
PERS-312C
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON TN 38055-3120**

The NAVPERS Form 1070/884 (04-07), Officer Photograph form, can be obtained from the following links:
<http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Forms/>

<https://forms.daps.dla.mil/search/>

http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_updt/new_forms/N1070_884.pdf

For more information, see NAVADMIN 103/07.

Chapter Awards Competition

Chapters are reminded that the deadline for awards submission is June 15th. Guidelines for awards submission are in the NNOA Operations manual. There is one change. All submissions must be made electronically to awards@nnoa.org. No paper submissions will be accepted.

Any questions, contact CDR McCallaCreary, USN (Ret) at retired-rep@nnoa.org

Bravo Zulu

Congratulations to our National Chaplain, Lt Carl Barnes, for having completed all of the requirements for his Doctor of Ministry degree. He marched on June 2 in Dayton, Ohio.

The 29th Blacks in Government (BIG) National Training Conference and Solicitation for Nominees for the BIG Meritorious Service Award

MARADMIN 332/07 announced the 2007 BIG Training Conference and solicits Marine Corps nominees for the 2007 BIG Meritorious Service Award. BIG will host its 29th annual national training conference 13-17 August in Nashville, Tenn. BIG was organized in 1975 and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976. BIG's goals are to promote equity in all aspects of American life, excellence in public service, and opportunities for all Americans.





New to the Quantico area, Chestnut immediately became interested in the Quantico chapter of NNOA.

Her current activities in the chapter include being on the Membership

Management and graduated with a cumulative grade point average of 3.98.

In addition to graduating with honors, she was the recipient of the Rear Admiral Grace Hopper Information Management Award for her leadership, academic achievement, and thesis work.

In addition to her academic requirements, she took on an additional challenge and completed the Non-Resident course for Command and Staff College Professional Military Education, beyond her rank and grade.

She also volunteered with one of the school's community service programs, I-HELP. As a volunteer in the I-HELP program, she and other students went to a local church one Saturday out of the month and prepared breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the homeless men involved in the outreach program.

Although new to NNOA, Chestnut has demonstrated her dedication to community service as well as self improvement. The chapter is excited to have her as a part of our team.

NNOA Member Spotlight: Capt. Melissa Chestnut

Capt. Melissa Chestnut is a prior enlisted Marine who as a corporal decided to take on the challenge to become a Marine Corps Officer. She was commissioned a second lieutenant in December 1998 after receiving a Bachelor of Science of degree in Computer Information Systems from Clark Atlanta University.

Committee as well as assisting in maintaining the chapter's website.

In her day-to-day duties, she is the Learning Management System Officer for the Marine Corps' Distance Learning System, MarineNet 3.0, and is intimately involved in ensuring the requirements for MarineNet 4.0 are being developed in order to meet the Marine Corps' Distance Learning needs in an expeditionary environment.

As a recent graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School, Chestnut received a masters of Science degree in Information Technology



Awards banquet Washington, D.C. Chapter Scholarship Banquet

Pictured right, Isaac Smith, president of Metropolitan Grapevine LLC, and his wife, Bethena, CEO of MG DiVine Foundation, present the CCV NNOA Chapter President, retired Navy Capt. Ed Gantt, with a \$12,000 donation. The DCNNOA Chapter awarded \$32,000 in scholarships to local Washington, D.C. high school seniors.

The Washington, D.C chapter of NNOA hosted its 19th Annual Ester Boone Memorial Scholarship Awards Banquet on April 28, 2007, at The Courses Clubhouse at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. The theme of this year's banquet was "Providing Opportunities for Future Leaders." The guest speaker for the banquet was retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Cliff Stanley, president and chief executive officer of Scholarship America.



Announcements

Fair Winds and Following Seas to a Coast Guard Trailblazer

NNOA wishes to express its appreciation for the dedicated service of Coast Guard Cmdr. Andrea L. Thomas, upon the occasion of her retirement on Nov. 1. In addition to her distinguished career, Cmdr. Thomas currently serves as the highest-ranking African-American woman in the United States Coast Guard

Cmdr. Thomas was born in Detroit, Mich., and joined the U.S. Navy in 1981. She was discharged from the Navy as a hospital corpsman 3rd Class with a specialty in Pharmacy. She graduated from Norfolk State University in December 1988 and began her Coast Guard career as a member of Officer Candidate School Class 1-90, receiving her commission as an ensign on December 8, 1989 at Training Center Yorktown, Va.

Cmdr. Thomas is the Deputy Chief, Exercise Coordination and Support Division, Office of Contingency Exercises and Training. Her previous assignments include three field tours. She was a traveling marine inspector at Marine Inspection Office, New York; Assistant Chief of Inspections at Marine Safety Office (MSO) Baltimore; Chief of Inspections at MSO Wilmington, N.C., and a plank owner of Sector North Carolina where she was the Chief of Prevention.

She has had two tours at Coast Guard Headquarters working for the Marine Safety (G-M) Directorate and in the office of Officer Personnel Management (G-OPM) as a detailer. She taught Leadership to 3rd Class cadets and served as the Military Civil Rights counselor/facilitator at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. She attended advance education at the University of Rhode Island where she was awarded a Masters Degree in Marine Affairs in May of 1997. She reported aboard as deputy chief, Exercise Coordination and Support in the Office of Contingency Exercises in



Cmdr. Andrea L. Thomas

August of 2006.

Cmdr. Thomas' decorations include 4 Coast Guard Commendation Medals, 3 Coast Guard Achievement Medals, National Defense Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal and Expert Rifleman Medal.

Flag Officer Announcements

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates recently announced that the following flag officer nominations:

Navy Rear Adm. Anthony L. Winns has been nominated for appointment to the grade of vice admiral and assignment as inspector general.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Victor G. Guillory has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Guillory is currently serving as deputy director, Surface Warfare Division, N86B, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Cecil E. Haney has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Haney is currently serving as commander, Submarine Group Two, Groton, Conn.

Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Adam M. Robinson Jr. has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Robinson is currently serving as commander, Navy

Medicine Capital Area, Bethesda, Md.

Navy Capt. Earl L. Gay has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Gay is currently serving as director, Navy House Liaison Office, Office of Legislative Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Kanto Plain NNOA Chapter Established

On May 1, 2007, the NNOA Kanto Plain Chapter was established in Yokosuka, Japan. Among the first order of business for the chapter will be discussing the upcoming national conference, and a plan to impact the community with the NNOA message and mission. Each chapter member has been tasked to present one idea or event to boost membership, and forge inroads among the 62 tenant commands in Yokosuka. Long range goals for the future include reaching out to Naval Air Facility Atsugi, once community ties with Yokosuka are going strong.

The following officers were elected to lead the Kanto Plain Chapter:

- **President:** Lt. Cmdr. Helen Murphy, USN
- **Vice President:** Lt. j.g. Kenneth Jones, USN
- **Secretary/PAO:** Michelle Stewart, USMC (Retired).
- **Membership:** Lt. Dave Hamilton, USN
- **Treasurer:** Was not elected as of this publish date.

Search for File, Records and Photos

The NNOA National Historian is attempting to capture documents to help our organization capture and maintain our history. NNOA members are requested to look through your NNOA files, records, and photos and coordinate with Ron Casey at email address: historian@nnoa.org or by phone at (410) 295-4012.

