



National Museum of the American Sailor

**October 2023
Newsletter**

Important Update: In the event of a government shutdown, the National Museum of the American Sailor will be closed. Please visit our [website](#) or social media platforms for any updates or changes.

"I am a Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy. I serve my country and her people with pride and honor..."

BEGINNING OF THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER PLEDGE

Sailor Spotlight: Chief Gunner's Mate Bob Feller



Bob Feller was already a legendary pitcher for the Cleveland Indians when World War II broke out. He took a break from his Major League career to enlist in the United States Navy. Infuriated by the attack on Pearl Harbor, that same day of December 7, Feller told the Indians he was enlisting. Two days later, he was in the Navy. After completing basic training in Norfolk and serving as a fitness instructor there, Feller advocated for the opportunity to serve in combat missions. He was assigned to the USS Alabama as a gun captain. By war's end in 1945, Feller had joined the ranks of Navy chiefs.

Reflecting on his naval service Feller wrote, "Serving in the military is almost always a defining moment for any young man or woman... But it makes a difference when you go through a war, no matter which branch of the service you're in. Combat is an experience that you never forget."

Navy Great Lakes Regional SeaPerch Competition 2024

Save the date for the 2024 Navy Great Lakes Regional SeaPerch Competition!

Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024

Location: Lake Forest, IL 60045

Visit our [website](#) for periodic updates about the competition or [sign up](#) for the Navy Great Lakes SeaPerch competition newsletter.



EDUCATION
AND EVENTS

Free Programs Continuing This Fall!

Guided Museum Tours

Every Thursday and Friday at 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM

Come see the museum galleries in a new light! Docent-led tours are now available every Friday at 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM. These 30-minute gallery walks include stories not shared in the exhibit panels, behind-the-scenes stories of creating these exhibits, and an opportunity to ask your burning Navy questions.



Sea Stories

October 6 and 20 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Sailors are known for their elaborate stories from their travels around the world. Now is your chance to hear those stories straight from the horse's (err goat's?) mouth. Every other Friday, Navy veterans and active duty sailors are on duty to share their stories with you. Ask them about their bootcamp days, their favorite ports, the food; the possibilities are endless.

Drop Anchor Programs

October 13 and 27 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Get hands on history with our new Drop Anchor programs. For kids, and kids at heart, these interactive activities teach sailor skills, including knot tying and the all-important hardtack recipe. Participants make and take a project each program.



Blog Post: Breaking Ground and Navy Traditions



This month, we have **two** new blogs to share!

First up, Curator of Education Tricia M. explores some of the groundbreaking chiefs in Navy history and how their stories continue to influence chiefs today.

And Deputy Director Kelly D. dives into one of the Navy's most time honored traditions: cake cutting!

Read both on our [Sailor's Attic](#) blog.

COLLECTIONS
AND
RESEARCH

Artifact Spotlight: MCPON Black Uniforms, ca. 1968

One of the most significant changes to the chief system was the creation of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) position in 1967. As the most senior enlisted member of the Navy, the MCPON serves as the enlisted representative to the Chief of Naval Operations, addressing the needs and issues of the Navy's enlisted sailors. Master Chief Delbert Black was selected as the first MCPON.

The National Museum of the American Sailor holds several artifacts from MCPON Black's service, including his dress uniform (right). Black, a World War II veteran with two decades of naval service at the time of his appointment as MCPON, set the standard for the MCPON role. Among his many achievements were the creation of enlisted representation on boards, the establishment of CPO screening boards, the creation of the Ombudsman program, and a clear focus on family. MCPON Black continues to be a role model for MCPONs today.



Rank and Rate is Coming Soon!

If the terms “enlisted,” “officers,” and “chief petty officers” have your head swimming, you’re not alone! The Navy’s rank and rate system are confusing for anyone, but especially for civilians. To better explain the way Navy combines sailor’s hierarchical status and occupation, the museum is creating a new interactive element.

This hands-on exhibit component will explain the rank and rate system, as well as highlight some of the many jobs within the Navy. NMAS is working with Luci Creative and Ravenswood Studio to create this new exhibit interactive.



EXHIBITS

VOLUNTEERS
AND
OUTREACH

Chief Heritage March Recap

Earlier this year, the National Museum of the American Sailor was invited to join Recruit Training Command’s chief select training program, “Back to Bootcamp.” This week-long program brings chief selects from around the world back to their roots at Naval Station Great Lakes. With the help of nine dedicated volunteers, the education team worked closely with RTC to create a heritage march around the historic section of Great Lakes. At each stop, chief selects discovered stories of chiefs who came before them that changed and influenced recruit training over the last 100 years.

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE AMERICAN SAILOR**

WE ARE RECRUITING NEW VOLUNTEERS!

**SATURDAY
OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE!**

Help us tell the story of the United States Navy's enlisted sailor! The National Museum of the American Sailor has a wide variety of positions available to volunteers. There are several new and exciting volunteer opportunities. We're currently in need of volunteers to help as:

- Exhibits and Facilities Assistant
- Front Desk Greeter(s)

INTERESTED IN COMING ABOARD?

**REACH OUT TO US AT:
(847) 688-3154 X215 OR
NHHC_NMAS@US.NAVY.MIL**

