

NNOA

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On February 23, 1944, the Navy announced that two anti-submarine vessels would be commissioned and manned with Black crews. Black officers would be commissioned to fill 22 available billets. White officers would be assigned to billets requiring technical training not yet possessed by Blacks, but as quickly as Black officers qualified, they would replace the White officers so that the entire crews of these vessels would be Black. Before the end of the year the first 12 Black line officers were assigned to submarine-chaser, *USS P.C. 1264* and destroyer-escort *D.E. Mason* to replace the White officers.

March 17, 1944 was graduation day for the first 13 Black men (12 ensigns and 1 warrant officer), known affectionately as the "Golden Thirteen," who were commissioned as officers in the Regular Navy. There were no graduation exercises or presentation ceremonies to mark this historic occasion, but in their hearts these 13 pioneers knew that a new day had dawned for Blacks in the United States Navy.

By early summer, the Navy had two Black chaplains, three Black doctors, two Black dentists, three Black supply officers and two Black civil engineers. These men were graduates of the Navy's V-12 program. Men, selected from the service at large, were sent to various colleges and universities to complete specialized course work and officer training. Only a small number of Blacks were enrolled in the colleges and universities offering V-12 training.

The entrance of Black women into the WAVES (Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service) was, in large part, due to the untiring efforts of the Non-partisan Committee of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA). As soon as the naval auxiliary was established in the latter part of 1942, AKA's had fought for the inclusion of Black women in the service.

After two years, the WAVES dropped the color bar and two Black women were admitted to officer training. In time 57 Black enlisted women entered officer training.

By September 1945 there were 165,000 Black enlisted men, 52 commissioned officers, 70 WAVES and 4 nurses in the Navy; 16,900 enlisted men and no commissioned officers in the Marines; and 3,627 enlisted men, 968 warrant and petty officers, 4 commissioned officers and 5 enlisted Spars (women's auxiliary) in the Coast Guard.

A new directive, dated February 27, 1946, stated that "All restrictions governing types of assignment for which

Negro naval personnel are eligible are hereby lifted. Henceforth, they shall be eligible for all types of assignments, all ratings, all activities and on ships of the naval service."

The next year, Ensign John W. Lee, a V-12 graduate, saw duty as gunnery officer aboard an auxiliary craft. He was transferred from the Reserve into the Regular Navy, becoming the first Black naval officer in history so selected.

As seen earlier, five Black men had been appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy, but none of them had graduated. In June 1949, the Navy commissioned its first Black graduate of the Academy, Ensign Wesley A. Brown of Washington, D.C.

Today there are 2,204 Black commissioned officers in the Navy including seven flag officers: Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr., the first Black admiral; Rear Admiral Gerald Thomas; Rear Admiral Lawrence Chambers, who was the second Black graduate of Annapolis and first Black area commander of the Indian Ocean; Rear Admiral Louis Williams; Rear Admiral Benjamin P. Hacker; Commodore Wendell Johnson and Commodore (select) Robert Toney. There are 967 Black commissioned officers in the Marine Corps including two flag officers: Major General Frank Petersen and Brigadier General Jerome Cooper; and 83 Black commissioned officers in the Coast Guard.

The Birth of NNOA

IN the summer of 1971, four Black officers of the Naval Reserve—Captain Emerson Emory and Captain Claude Williams of Dallas Texas; Commander Emanuel Jenkins of New York City; and Chief Warrant Officer James Harris of Memphis, Tennessee—were invited by Lieutenant Commander Kenneth H. Johnson to attend a two-week session for Blue and Gold Officers at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. Blue and Gold Officers were part of the Information Program the Naval Academy conducted to recruit young men (and now women) across the country for college training at Annapolis.

LCdr. Johnson told the four officers of the problems he had encountered in fostering interest among young Blacks in a Navy career through the Academy. None of the four Black officers had ever heard of the Blue and Gold Program. Despite the fact that the program had been in existence for more than ten years, minority officers had not been detailed to the Naval Academy Information Office.

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Hints For Homemakers/Inez Kaiser

Men, too, can learn good laundry habits

DEAR INEZ: My husband likes to help out around the house—and that can be a true blessing. He even does the laundry, but you should see the mess he makes of it. I want to encourage him, but enough is enough! What should I do?
—LAUNDRY LOSER

DEAR LAUNDRY LOSER: First off, let's get rid of that "loser" tag. If your husband likes to help around the house, that makes you a winner! All you have to do is teach him the ropes.

The truth is that more and more men are doing the laundry these days. It's easy for them to learn how to use a washing machine—that's really the fun part—but they really need instruction in some of the techniques of getting your wash clean.

Of course, the whole washday process can be kept free of hang-ups when you use WISK, America's No. 1 liquid laundry detergent.

It's no secret that WISK works better than sprays or powders on "ring around the collar"—and it gets your whole wash clean.



My next tip would be to sort the laundry carefully in terms of similar colors, amounts of soil and fabric type. You're then ready to follow the instructions on the back label of the WISK container about the amount of detergent to use, pretreating, loading the machine, etc. It's almost as easy as that.

But most important is the fact that you're using that bright red bottle that says "WISK" and not just any other liquid detergent that comes along.

WISK gets your whole wash clean, and also does a great job of removing all kinds of other difficult spots and stains. The cleaning technique for such common stains as coffee, catsup or cocoa is exactly the same as for ring around the collar.

To get the best results, just moisten the collar or stained area and rub lightly with WISK. Then put the item in the washing machine with the rest of your laundry.

Don't overload your machine. Items should move freely for best cleaning results. If these instructions are followed, your whole wash should come out fresh and clean—and the man in your house will have the satisfaction of a job well done—with the cleaning wonders of WISK.

MORE MINT FOR THE MOUTH

MEN ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONSCIOUS of good grooming these days. No longer are they attracted only by a woman's outward beauty; instead they are becoming more aware of the appearance of her hair, skin and teeth—and the freshness of her breath.

Most men are turned off by a woman's offensive breath—even without saying a word. Smart women protect their breath by using a mouthwash that makes their mouths feel refreshed. My advice is to use SIGNAL.

SIGNAL makes your mouth feel more minty and refreshed than the leading mint mouthwash. It is a sure safeguard for those endearing moments. Once you use it, you'll really feel it.

Believe me, SIGNAL gives you a feeling of mouth-tingling mint that you've never felt before.

SIGNAL eliminates all strong odors from your breath. It improves your image and makes you feel so good.

Just use SIGNAL mouthwash at all times. You man will feel and smell your signal. It never fails to do its job.



DOESN'T DRY THE SKIN AS SOAP DOES

EVERY WOMAN IS CONCERNED about how her skin looks and feels. In fact, women are always interested in having the smoothest, softest skin possible.

That is why more women these days are using CARESS, the body bar with bath oil.

It's really a beauty bar that doesn't dry your skin the way soap does. CARESS gives you the "soft" you just can't get from soap. It keeps your skin feeling softer and smoother than any soap can.

Young women especially are increasingly turning to CARESS because it does not alter the natural moisture balance of their skin. This helps protect against dryness. In fact, CARESS seals in the skin's natural moisture.

More and more women these days are using CARESS because this marvelous body bar does just what its name implies—it caresses the skin for the soft you can't get from soap.

