# Top Rank in the U.S. Navy

Amid the hoopla associated with the annual graduation exercises at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, there is the ever present reality that life for blacks in the military has been no crystal ball.

The transition from battlefield to peacetime service has been painful for many military people, unbearable for others. But there have been some who have been able to rise above the realities and create a reality of their own in the form of promotions to the highest ranks the Navy has to offer.

According to the most learned Navy historians, there never was a time in history when blacks were not in that particular branch of the military.

As early as the American jrevolution, blacks fought alongside white soldiers against the British, and during the Civil War, blacks were a large part of the Union Navy.

The first black captain in the Navy was appointed during the Civil War. Robert Smalls, a pilot on a Confederate commerce ship, snuck past confederate gun boats in the wee hours of the night.

Smalls surrendered the ship to Union forces, which in turn led an attack on the Confederates. Smalls was made a captain for his efforts.

It was during the Spanish-American War, however, that segregation in the Navy as the world came to know it became widespread. Blacks were recruited into the Navy, but only in the capacity of stewards or mess-men.

By 1916, segregation of this sort was almost complete, and stayed that way during World War I.

After the hue and cry about lack of black officers in the Navy was recognized, a class of officer candidates was formed at Great Lakes Naval Training Center with the graduates earning the rank of Ensign. One of those completing the course was Samuel Gravely, who in 1971 became the first black admiral in the modern Navy.

### V.Adm. Samuel Gravely

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL L. GRAVELY, Jr. was named a rear admiral in July 1971. Born June 4, 1922 in Richmond, Va., Adm. Gravely enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves in 1942 and served in World War II.

Released from active duty in 1946, he pursued his education at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Ca., and graduated both from that institution and later from the Naval War College.

He was promoted in 1946, when he was named junior grade lieutenant. His next promotion was in 1958, when he became lieutenant commander, and in 1967, he was appointed captain.

In July, 1971, he was a designated rear admiral while serving in billets commensurate with that grade, and finally reached the ranks of Rear Admiral in July, 1972. He is now a designated vice admiral.

He has served on the USS Iowa, the USS Toledo, USS Seminole, USS Falgout, and was commanding officer of the USS Taussy, USS Jouett.

— —

REAR ADMIRAL LAWRENCE C. CHAMBERS- is currently serving as commander for Carrier Group Three, based in the Pacific. He began his naval career as a midshipman of the U.S. Naval Academy in June, 1948. He graduated as ensign in 1952, and was named junior grade lieutenant in December 1973.

He reached the rank of full lieutenant in 1956, and lieutenant commander in 1961. July, 1966, saw him named as commander, followed in 1972 by appointment to captain, and finally, rear admiral in August, 1977.

Born in Bedford, Va. in 1929, Admiral Chambers has served on the USS Columbus, USS Ranger, USS Orinsky, and was commanding officer for the USS White Plains and the USS Midway.

He has won the Bronze Star medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Korea, and a Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars.

— —

REAR ADMIRAL GERALD B. THOMAS was born June 23, 1929, in Natrick, Mass. He began his naval career as a midshipman in the U.S. Naval Reserve, and became an ensign in 1951.

A graduate of the Naval War College in 1966, he was awarded a M.S. degree in International Affairs by George Washington University in 1966, and a Ph.D. in history by Yale University in 1973. He is classified as a linguist in Russian and is fluent in German.

His assignments and duties have included posts on the USS Newman K. Perry, the USS Worchester and the USS Lowe.

He has served as commanding officer of the USS Bausell, C.O. of the NROTC unit of Prairie View A & M College in Texas, Commander of Destroyer Squadron Nine and Cruiser Destroyer Five.

He is now commander of the training command for the U.S. Pacific Fleet in San Diego.

He has received the Navy Occupation Service Medal with "europe" clasp, a National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, and a Republic of Vietnam campaign medal with device.

He is married and is the father of three children.

### R.Adm. Lawrence C. Chambers

### R.Adm. Gerald Thomas

### R.Adm. Louis Williams

REAR ADMIRAL LOUIS A. WILLIAMS was born August 26, 1931, in Ypsilanti, Mi. He enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1949, and was honorably discharged from that unit in 1952. He reenlisted in the reserve units in 1953, and became an ensign in 1954.

Currently commander of the training command for the Adantic, based in Norfolk, Va., Admiral Williams was commissioned admiral in July, 1979. He was made a lieutenant, junior grade, in 1955, a full lieutenant in 1958, a lieutenant commander in 1963, and a captain in 1973.

He has been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star, a Nationaldefense service medal with one bronze star, and a Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars, among others.

### R.Adm. Benjamin T. Hacker

(Continued on Page 23)



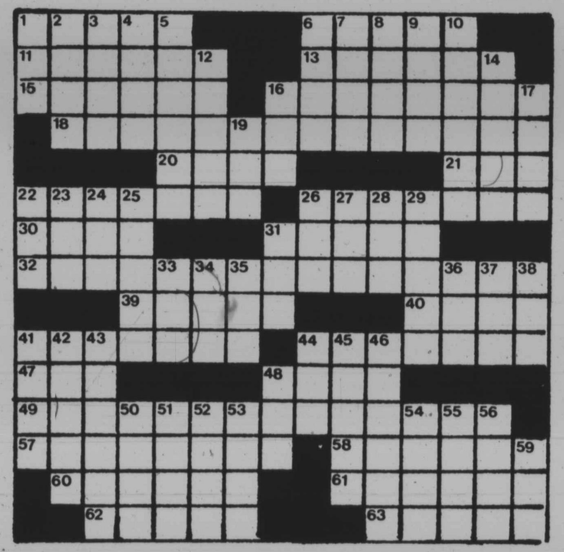
## Black Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Concern of 50 down
6 —, Fla.: State of Rep. Carrie Meek
11 — chips: introduced by Hiram S. Thomas (1865)
13 — Pippin: famous blk. artist
15 Noise maker
16 Light bulb is, Lewis H. —/ inv. (1881)
18 Blk. inv. of a clothes dryer (1892)
20 —, Colo.: Rep. Arie Taylor's State
21 — Wells: blk. freedom fighter
22 Wait H. —: inv. of a comb, Pat. (1920)
26 Bill Robinson, taught, Shirley Temple, this (2 wds.)
30 King Cole —: blk. singers
31 With 34 down, a meteorite
32 This black inv. improved the telephone
39 — Hall: Sen. of Indiana, a blk.
40 Woodwind
41 Vehicle for, Matt Henson: blk. explorer
44 Toggled —: inv. by Lewis Temple, a blk.
47 —aluico, Mex.: blks. were in this land Pre-Columbus
48 Bell —, Mich.: State of Rep. Barbara R. Collins
49 Black inv. of a fountain pen
57 Time for black boy, "King Tut": (2 wds.)
58 — T. Washington: founder of 'Tuskegee'
60 — H. Burroughs: blk. school founder
61 — —dale: Jimmy Winkfield, rode this Ky. Derby winner (1902)
62 Benjamin L. —: Exec. Dir. NAACP
63 "Iola —", by Frances E. W. Harper

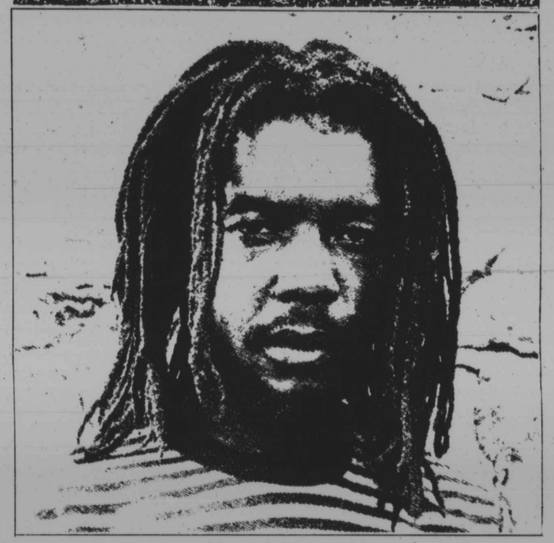
**DOWN**

1 HDQS. for Gen. Hazel W. Johnson, a blk.
2 Amos E. —: blk. inv. of 35 down
3 Amerind
4 African food staple
5 Many great blk. stars are heard here
6 —. B. Brooks, blk. inv. of mech. sweeper: Pat. (1896)
7 Jot
8 Neat
9 Blacks used this in building pyramids
10 Conquers a king: (2 wds.)
12 Used by the 'Fisk Jubilee Singers'
14 Slavers tried to — slaves' spirit
16 Subordinates of 1 down
17 Cookie
19 Stidum & Rochester
22 Sterling: abbr.
23 Train sta. abbr.
24 Service designation
25 Theolonius': blk. musician
26 — Reservoir, Colorado
27 Rob— Blair: inv. a AA gun
28 Exclamation
29 Termfor, Dawson Thomas: blk. builder of ships
31 —xis M. Herman: blk. Dir. U.S. Dept. Labor
33 — Walker: Cheney star
34 See 31 across
35 Jar —: invention by 2 down
36 —, Central African Rep.
37 —ley Wilson: blk. entertainer
38 Wynona Lipman, of N.J.: a blk.
41 Black birds
42 Judge Lillian Burke: —o—
43 S.C. & Ga. islands blacks
44 —po: city of St. Augustine, a blk.
45 Caribbean island
46 Use J. A. Sweeting's, cigaret device again
48 —el, Sudan Africa
50 Dr. De— Meriwether: blk. hemotologist
51 Identification No.: short form
52 — ale, Ethiopia
53 Ms Street's: blk. Rep. K.Y.
54 Rodent
55 Bose —d: blk., early surveyor
56 —ia, Ga.: State of Rep. Lottie Watkins
59 Charlotte —: 1st blk. fem. Lawyer




PETER TOSH

WANTED



DREAD & ALIVE

The new album features the hit single

"NOTHING BUT LOVE"

Produced & Arranged by Peter Tosh

EMI AMERICA

© 1981 Mesidor B.V.