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**From:** Jami Morritt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 1:35 PM  
**To:** June McHuen  
**Subject:** FW: written comment on the presentation: Port Chicago 50,, a holistic wellness example of healing for all.

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**From:** Colleen Awad <Colleen.Awad@bos.cccounty.us>  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 1:32 PM  
**To:** Jami Morritt <Jami.Morritt@cob.cccounty.us>  
**Subject:** written comment on the presentation: Port Chicago 50,, a holistic wellness example of healing for all.

Hi Jami,

Please see the below correspondence from Mr. Arnold. He asked for the comment to be part of the record for today. I didn't see the clerk's office email below. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Best,

Colleen Awad  
Deputy Chief of Staff (She/Her)  
Office of Supervisor Karen Mitchoff  
Contra Costa County, District IV  
P: (925) 655-2350  
\*\*Please note my new phone number\*\*  
[Colleen.Awad@bos.cccounty.us](mailto:Colleen.Awad@bos.cccounty.us)  
Sign up to receive updates from Supervisor Mitchoff [here](#).

This message is being sent on a public e-mail system and may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act

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**From:** Philip Arnold  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 12:06 PM  
**To:** Supervisor Candace Andersen <SupervisorAndersen@bos.cccounty.us>, Supervisor\_Burgis <Supervisor\_Burgis@bos.cccounty.us>, SupervisorMitchoff <SupervisorMitchoff@bos.cccounty.us>, John\_Gioia <John\_Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>, District5 <District5@bos.cccounty.us>  
**Subject:** Port Chicago 50,, a holistic wellness example of healing for all.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Instead of waiting for Open Comments and confining my public remarks today to 2 minutes I decided to go on written record with you regarding today's Port Chicago presentation.

It was 28 years ago at 2pm on Sunday, July 17, 1994, that my wife Shelley and I were the invited guests of Congressman George Miller and National Park Director Roger Kennedy to attend the dedication of Port Chicago Naval Magazine as a National Memorial. I have attached a copy of the program for your reference. That day's events for me were equally exhilarating and exasperating.

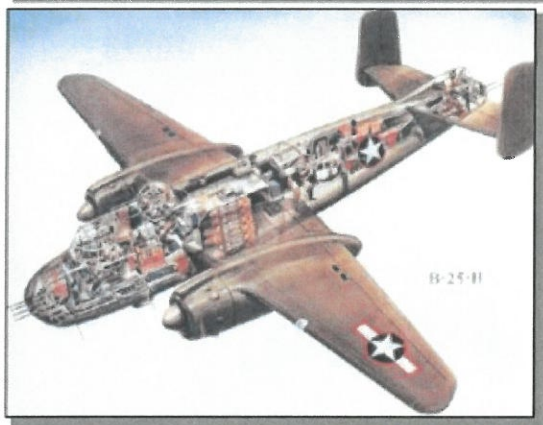
Congressman Miller followed and publicly supported my intense letter writing campaign to President Bill Clinton to erase the wrongful courts-martial status of mutiny by those who survived the explosion and participated in a group work stoppage.

My father-in-law **Edwin T. Cowan** an original Tuskegee Airmen was a Flight Officer and Colonel who served as a B-25 Bomber pilot. On February 7, 2019, the cremains of him and his wife Theda received a full military honors reburial at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. My father-in-law kept very private about his service record and as such insisted on no fanfare or special markings on their original church cemetery grave sites. The DoD did a 1-minute video of their reburial for our national archives which is in the first link below. Our oldest grandson Michael then a freshman scholarship student at the Berklee College of Music in Boston flew down to Patrick Air Force Base to audition and was approved to play taps on his trumpet at the reburial of his great-grandfather and great-grandmother. He won't truly know what this meant until many years from now.

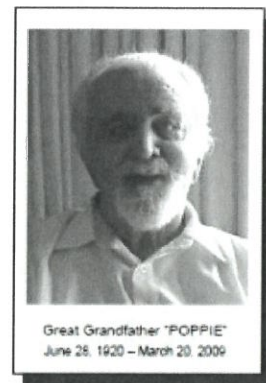
[DVIDS - Video - Tuskegee Airman Edwin T. Cowan Funeral \(dvidshub.net\)](https://dvidshub.net)

[Tuskegee Airman receives long-deserved final tribute | | vieravoice.com](https://www.vieravoice.com)

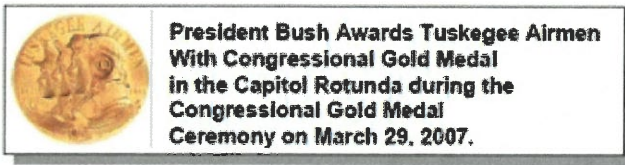
## The Tuskegee Airmen 618th Bombardment Squadron



Great-grandfather to twins Michael and Rochelle Arnold, Davis and Sydney Arnold, and Colby and Caleb Arnold



- Four machine guns across the middle of the nose.
- The 75mm cannon is partially hidden in a 'well' low in the nose.
- Four machine guns in side 'blisters' (only port-side pair visible).
- Two in top 'dorsal' turret.
- Two in waist positions (again only port-side shown).
- Two in tail turret.



Whenever my in-laws came to California to visit us from Florida my father-in-law steadfastly refused my invitations for him to visit Port Chicago because he referred to it as a "national crime scene". I always kept him abreast of my collaborative letter writing campaign to the President with Congressman George Miller to clear the wrongfully court-martialed sailors' convictions to get them reversed and expunged. It is still a work in progress however DeSaulnier does not have the same passion about it that Miller did. So very sad that he doesn't.

Today I am encouraged by your efforts supporting the local, state, and federal efforts to exonerate the Port Chicago 50. It is a known fact that you must cleanse the wound before you can close the wound. The cleansing has been underway for many years.

An additional thought for your consideration. It was through the encouragement of Gen Dan Helix that I put my hat in the ring to serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse Project. It was my personal recommendation that if and when the reuse project ever came to fruition that the streets of the residential development be named after the deceased African American sailors in honor of their dedication, service, and conviction. The silence of such a thought aired by me was deadening.

I encourage you to carry on so that we can cleanse and close this open wound.

Thank you.

Phil

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**Philip H. Arnold, Jr.**

[LinkedIn Phil Arnold](#)  
[Distinguished Alumni Award](#)

*“Service to others is the rent you pay  
for your room here on earth.”  
- Muhammad Ali*