



United States Navy Biography



**REGINA T. AKERS PH.D.
HISTORIAN, NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE
COMMAND**

Dr. Regina T. Akers is a native of Washington, DC. She received her Bachelors in U.S. History from The Catholic University of America, receiving both her Masters and Doctorate in U.S. and Public History from Howard University.

She is a member of the Public History and Education Section in the Histories Branch at Naval History and Heritage Command, where she has served as an archivist and historian since 1987. She enjoys a national reputation as a subject matter expert on diversity and personnel issues in the United States military with an emphasis on women and African Americans in the Navy.

She served as the first chair of the Command's Senior Historians Advisory Committee and the command's oral history team lead. Dr. Akers earned her doctorate in United States History and Public History at Howard University, where she taught women's and public history as an adjunct professor. Her publications include *The Navy's First Enlisted Women: Patriotic Pioneers* (Naval History and Heritage Command, 2019), book chapters, articles, encyclopedia entries, book reviews, and blogs. She is a co-author of *United States Navy: Oral History Guide* and a contributor to an edited volume of essays entitled *Innovation and the Navy*, both forthcoming. She has presented at a myriad of symposia ranging from the Wilson Center to the National Archives, and she has given numerous media interviews.

Additionally, she presented for the Naval Historical Foundation's tribute to VADM Samuel L. Gravely, Jr. and the Naval Installations Command's Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Day 2021 program. She gave series of lectures about Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., the Navy's first black admiral, for the 2022 Navy Week in Richmond, Virginia. She was a subject matter expert for a documentary about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Her prestigious assignments include the African American Civil War Sailors Project, the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Task Force, and the advisory committee supporting a Congressional effort to establish a women's history museum on the National Mall. She is also a key contributor to the Pentagon's African American Corridor Renovation Project, the African American Naval Academy graduates' documentary for their

2022 celebration, the 50th Anniversary of the National Naval Officers Association and the Naval Academy's diversity initiative. Dr. Akers was a distinguished scholar for the 2022 Teacher's Summit focused on World War II and sponsored by the Intrepid museum in New York City. She is the 2020 Forrest Pogue Award co-recipient for outstanding career achievements in oral history.

The Acting Secretary of the Navy and other senior naval leaders recognized her historical support for black history month presentations, the naming of the next Ford-Class aircraft carrier after Doris Miller, and the Navy's 5 March 2020 International Women's Day program. Dr. Akers is the first recipient of the Histories Branch's Team Member of the Year Award for best exemplifying the branch philosophy and mission for 2020 based on her peer's nomination.