

TO THE HONORABLE
THE
Senate and House of Representatives,
IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

We the undersigned, Boatswains, Gunners, Carpenters, and Sailmakers—Warranted Officers of the Navy (a grade established with the birth of the same), respectfully memorialise your Honorable Body, and invite your attention to the fact, that while each civil branch of the service has received a respectable classification by assimilated Rank with the Line of the Navy, the position of our several corps remain the same.

We most earnestly request that some *definite* Rank may be assigned to us.

Within a few years past, the Naval Department established certain rules and requirements necessary to appointments in our corps, and an examination as the test of professional fitness. This *excellent* regulation has undoubtedly exercised a healthy and invigorating influence in *these* grades of the Service. By elevating the standard of merit, it has added to our ranks very many of worth and respectability.

Since the importance of the latter has been recognised, and a certain standard established, quite a different tone of feeling has been obtained among us. We feel proud of the office we hold; and we submit if this feeling will not be increased, and consequently *the value of our service to the country*, by the further extension of our respectability, through the influence of Rank.

Unlike the civil corps of the service, usually termed "non-combatants," we *actually exercise* in our several departments, a *military authority over the crew*. Frequently are we called upon to perform other and *responsible duties*, pertaining *exclusively* to the Line, such as the subordinate command of Divisions, the command of boats and parties of men on duty ashore; and in case of sickness or disability of the Lieutenants of the vessel to which we may be attached, those of a watch are charged upon us. It is admitted, that in cases of extreme emergency (which might arise either in war, or by the ravages of an epidemic disease), *the actual command of the vessel may devolve upon us*.

Our duties on shipboard as seamen bring us continually in contact with the crew, as superintenders and directors of its work. And that these services are regarded, and we estimated, as important parts of a Naval establishment, the Captains and Lieutenants, and the custom of foreign navies will fully testify.

Without a lengthy review of this subject, we further submit to the consideration of your Honorable Body, that as Rank, in the eyes of seamen, has a certain importance and value, will not the efficiency of our corps be greatly enhanced by assigning and establishing a suitable rank for us?

We are now Warrant Officers, and by legal enactments of recent date, compelled to give precedence in all ceremonies, to others, holding their position by an acting appointment from the Honorable Secretary of the Navy, while our Grade receive a Warrant from the President of the United States. This is certainly mortifying to men of mature years in the service.

We respectfully memorialise your Honorable Body, that the following rank may be assigned to us:

That for the first Five years' service, we be made to rank with Ensigns. That after five years we be made to rank with Masters. That after having faithfully served our country for Ten years, we receive a *Commission*, not to conflict with the Officers of the Line.

That the title "Forward," where it is used to designate the Forward Warrant Officers of the United States, be stricken from the Naval Register, so that it may read, and we be known, as "Warrant Officers in the Naval service of the United States."

To all of which your memorialists humbly pray to draw your attention, and affix our names and respective Grades.

It is the undersigned, Boatwain, Gunners, Carpenter, and Sailmaker—Warranted Officers of the Navy (a grade established with the birth of the same), respectfully recommends your Honorable Body, and invite your attention to the fact, that while each Civil branch of the service has received a respectable classification by assimilated rank with the line of the Navy, the position of our several corps remain the

But the importance of the latter has been recognised, and a certain standard established, and a different tone of feeling has been obtained among us. We feel proud of the office we hold; and we submit if this feeling will not be increased and consequently the value of our services to the country, by the further extension of our responsibilities through the influence of Bank.

Our duties as shipboard seamen being in constant contact with the crew, as engineers and directors of its work. And that these duties are regarded as important parts of a Naval establishment, the Captain and the commandant will find

This is certainly motivating to men of mature years in the service. Honorable Secretary of the Navy, while our Grade receives a *Warrent* from the President of the United States, we now *Warrent Officers* and by legal enactments of recent date compelled to give

That the title "Forward" which it is used to designate the forward Warrant Officers of the United States, be stricken from the Naval Register, so that it may read, and be known, as "Warrant Officers in the Navy service of the United States."

To all of which your associates kindly pay to draw your attention, and affix our names.

Petition of Warrant
Officers of the Navy.