



Other Notable Black Medal of Honor Recipients

In this [#TallShipTuesday](#), We reflect on Aaron Anderson, the first black recipient of the Medal of Honor and the heroism he showed. Anderson was one of 93 black recipients of this high honor, and many of the other servicemen who received this award were also in the navy. It seems only fitting to take a look at a few more of them during Black History Month.



Congressional Naval Medal of Honor

[Robert Blake](#) was a Virginian Civil War Hero. A member of the Union Navy, he served on the US *Steam Gunboat Marblehead*. On December 25, 1863 in the Stono River, Blake fought bravely after their ship came under fire. Despite not having an assigned combat role, Blake bravely ran gun powder to the gun loaders after the powder bow was struck down.

[Robert Penn](#), also from Virginia, was a First Class Fireman of the US Navy during the Spanish-American War. He found himself facing peril onboard the USS *Iowa* off of Santiago de Cuba on July 20, 1898. His official citation stated that he faced “serious scalding... while standing on a board thrown across a coal bucket, one foot above the boiling water which was still blowing from the boiler.”

A steward (ship’s cook) on board USS *Cushing*, [Daniel Atkins](#) attempted to save the life of a drowning officer, Ensign Breckinridge when he fell overboard. For his actions that day on February 11, 1898, Atkins was awarded the Medal of Honor, along with fellow shipmate John Everetts for the same incident.

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