

**SAILORS WRITE HOME**  
**SAILORS TERRY ADVENGER AND LONNIE BROWN, AFRICAN-AMERICAN**  
**SAILORS ABOARD THE *CONSTELLATION* AND *KITTY HAWK***  
**LETTERS HOME**  
(1972)

Now if an officer comes along and he may not like me, you know, not because I said anything to him or done anything to him, but ... simply because I am who I am.

The way I find this out is by the response he takes. He walks up to me and a white man and he speaks to the white man and not me. He will look at the white man and not me. He will address the white man with respect but when it's me it is, "Why don't you do this?"

If the white guy and I have the same rate, pay classification, he will put the white guy in charge of me. That is if I am senior to him or not.

—Lonnie Brown

Mom, I refuse to be anything less than a man. Before I go to jail for six months I'd rather die. No Marines or whites were arrested, just Blacks. I'm serious Mom. I'll fight till my death and on my feet before I live on my knees the way some people have. Please do everything humanly possible to help me and my brothers.

—Terry Advenger