



Associated Press

EXPECTED TO BE NAMED ADMIRAL: Capt. Samuel L. Gravely Jr. on his ship, the guided-missile frigate Jouett.

Nixon to Name a Black Admiral; Key Civilian Choice Is Also Near

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7 below admiral or general.

Mr. Laird said at a news conference that he had encouraged the appointment because he was "interested in giving greater recognition to blacks in the selection process." The Navy has found it more difficult than other services to attract black enlistments.

Captain Gravely was born in Richmond in 1922. He entered the naval reserve at the age of 20 and has advanced rapidly ever since. After a period of officers training at a naval unit attached to the University of California, Los Angeles, he was appointed a midshipman and graduated from Columbia University midshipman's school in December, 1944.

He advanced to the rank of captain by Nov. 1, 1967, after transferring to the regular navy in 1965.

During World War II, Cap-

tain Gravely served aboard the submarine chaser U.S.S. PC 1264, successively as electronic, executive and personnel officer.

After the war he spent three years as a civilian before returning to active service in charge of the office of naval officers recruitment in Washington. He went back to combat service aboard the battleship Iowa on one of its last missions off the coast of Korea and later aboard the cruiser U.S.S. Toledo.

Captain Gravely became the first black officer ever to command a United States warship, patrolling the early warning radar barrier in the radar picket destroyer escort U.S.S. Falgout in January, 1962.

He got another command, the destroyer Taussig, in 1966 before receiving his present command of the Jouett.

In between service at sea he was assigned to Washington, first in the defense coordination agency, later as coordinator of the Navy satellite communications program.

Nixon Plans to Name First Black Admiral

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By DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 27 — Appointment of the first black admiral in the history of the United States Navy will take place soon, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird said today.

Although Mr. Laird declined to name the officer who would be promoted, naval aides identified Capt. Samuel L. Gravely Jr., the only seagoing commander among three black naval captains, as the certain choice. The appointment must be made by President Nixon and approved by the Senate.

Mr. Laird said that he also expected "a very high Presidential appointment of another black" in a civilian capacity related to the armed forces but again declined to make public the name of the person involved.

Captain Gravely, 48 years old, is commander of the guided missile frigate U.S.S. Jouett, based at Pearl Harbor.

There are two Negroes who are star rank officers in the United States armed forces.

They are Maj. Gen. Frederick Davison of the Army, who as a colonel led the 199th Infantry Brigade to quell the Tet offensive of 1968 in Vietnam, and Brig. Gen. David C. James of the Air Force, who was a leading combat flyer in Vietnam.

Two other Negroes preceded them in achieving the rank of general. The first was the late Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr., of the Army, who was appointed by President Truman in 1949, and the second was his son, Lieut. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., of the Air Force, who has retired.

The Army has 72 colonels who are black and the Air Force has 25. The black naval captains, in addition to Captain Gravely, are Rhomas D. Parham, a chaplain serving in Washington, and Dr. Paul Stewart Greene of the Naval Hospital in Lemoore, Calif. A Navy captain is the equivalent of an Army colonel—the next rank

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