

**Rosie the Riveter /  
World War II Home Front**



**Bechtel Corp and San Francisco Maritime NHP**

# Pioneer for Union Rights

## Joe James, Welder at Marinship, Sausalito, CA

African American shipyard workers paid union dues but could not join the union with Whites. Instead they were assigned to a segregated, powerless "auxiliary". Over 950 African American workers at Marinship protested and were fired in 1943. Joe James sued. The California Supreme Court agreed with him that closed-shop unions couldn't exclude people based on race (1945).

**To learn more, visit:** [www.nps.gov/rori](http://www.nps.gov/rori)

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