



Reflections

From the Chaps ~ Special Edition

THE DARK

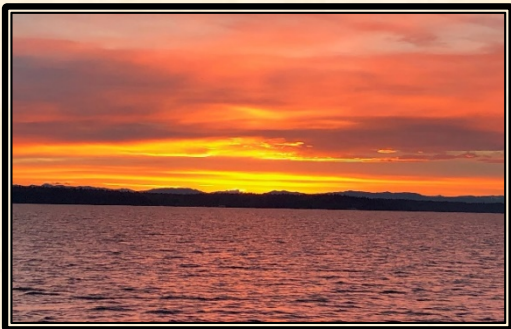
Ok, confessions of a chaplain here ... there have been a few things in my life that have genuinely scared me, but I must say, probably the worst fear I have ever had, especially when I was of a young age, was, *The Dark*. I was so afraid of the dark when I was little that I would do almost anything I could to keep from experiencing it! I would make every excuse I could at night to my parents so I wouldn't have to go out in it, and if I did,



I ran as fast as I could to take care of whatever I needed to get done on that little plot of land we had out in rural Oklahoma. It is just so very vivid to me, still today!

As I reflect back on those days (and maybe still a bit today, wink), I now understand what it was that made it so difficult for me. The fear was simply ... of the unknown; that, of course coupled with a very vivid imagination of a young boy with many things that weren't even real, or going to happen. I still firmly believe today, that the most difficult thing on the human psyche is indeed, the unknown. What's interesting, is that when I was with someone else in the dark, it wasn't nearly as bad. I remember those times saying to the other, and them to me, "Are you there?" It would just comfort me to know I wasn't alone, & that I could handle the unknown and situation at hand not just by myself, but together with another, or others. Today my Shipmates and families, we face yet another great unknown, in the dark. I have never in my career seen such a challenge that we now face, with this pandemic and its affect on our Nation, and the entire world. But I also need you to know something else from the bottom of my heart ... neither have I ever seen such incredible Sailors and families, who continue serving this incredible Nation, with such Honor, Courage and Commitment!

I cannot tell you I will walk for you Shipmates ... I cannot. But this is what I can say and swear; I will walk with you in this dark, through thick and thin during this entire "unknown" and while doing so, I have NO doubt in my mind that we will come through this as strong or stronger than we have ever been before, because we are a great people serving in the world's greatest Navy! I simply ask one thing of you; please do not sail alone, let's sail together!



We my STENNIS Shipmates, will go beyond the expected and get through all of this ... leaning on each other along the way. Let's work together as a Navy Family that shines brighter than any of those beautiful sunrises we have seen on deployment! What we do need though, is for those who need help, to reach out so we can provide that help, whatever it may be, even if it's just to talk it through. We are a great Nation and have leaders who deeply care for you, who will also walk WITH you in this darkness, and there WILL be a SUNRISE soon, that will

breach this unknown! Stay the course ... as you have always done in your incredible Navy heritage Shipmates ... Stay the Course! We admire you and your fellow Shipmates will stand with you through thick and thin ... I guarantee you, we will get through this ... **The Dark.**




Food 4 Thought: *"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."* —Franklin D. Roosevelt

A Second Helping: *"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do."* —Eleanor Roosevelt

Dessert with a Smile: *"We are more often frightened than hurt; and we suffer more from imagination than from reality."* —Seneca

RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Your USS JOHN C. STENNIS Religious Ministry Team

Called to Serve  *Looking Ahead!*



CDR Bill Stewart ~ Cmd Chaplain ~ William.Stewart@cvn74.navy.mil

LCDR Dave Duprey ~ PA ~ David.Duprey@cvn74.navy.mil

LT Jim Hinkle ~ DIVO ~ James.Hinkle@cvn74.navy.mil

RPC Tim Cambiado ~ DLCPO ~ Timothy.Cambiado@cvn74.navy.mil

RP2 Che'lese Bowman ~ LPO ~ Chelese.Bowman@cvn74.navy.mil

RP3 Bennett ~ RP3 Hogan ~ ABE3 Tyson ~ OS3 Martin ~ SN Horne

Contact us for info or to set up an appointment at: J-7463 or 757-444-3258 or visit us at 03-128-14-L

Note: All communications with any Chaplain or RP is strictly confidential!

Other Care & Emergency Resources

*If you or a dependent has questions or concerns regarding the COVID-19 Virus, call:
NMCP COVID-19 Hotline (24 hours/day) at 757-953-6200*

For Sailors Onboard JCS: Medical ~ 757-444-7966 / J-7424 and Mental Health J-4202

FFSC (Fleet & Family Support Center) ~ 757-444-2102 ~ FFSC@NavStaNorfolk

Military OneSource ~ 1-800-342-9647 ~ www.militaryonesource.mil

American Red Cross for Military (+AMCROSS) ~ 1-877-272-7337

EMERGENCY: Call 911 immediately if you feel there is a life or death situation!



TIP: Did you know you can access Navy [ALNAV](#) & [NAVADMIN](#) messages online without a CAC?