



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO
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16 Aug 01

Dear Colleagues:

Last Wednesday, we said goodbye to a great lady, Mrs. Margaret Trower, wife of our former Chief of Chaplains, Ross Trower. We celebrated her life at Saint Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Springfield, Virginia. With the choir singing Mozart's "Lacrymosa," we reflected on her great life. The homily reminded us of her wit, humor, generosity, and sacrifice. The service provided a means for us to say thank you to one who had touched many profoundly.

We left the church and headed for Arlington National Cemetery. There I spoke of my memories of Margaret. I highlighted her humility, her exemplary living, and her willingness to teach. We laid her to rest with gratitude to God for His unspeakable gifts.

Our gratitude is also lifted to God for Chaplain Corps recruiting. Yesterday, six more chaplains joined our ranks, five for active duty. This puts us well ahead of last year's pace, with another accessions board scheduled for next week. To God be the glory, great things He has done and continues to do.

God continues to bless our Chaplains School. Chaplain McNabb, our CNET chaplain, shared the good news of a recent graduating class of 63 chaplains, 38 of whom are headed for active duty. Chaplain Atwater reported that Video Tele-training equipment will be installed at the school and ready for testing by 15 October. This will open training opportunities for the Corps at large and give me the latitude of addressing Chaplains School students from DC. This is the leveraging of technology anticipated in our strategic plan. God is at work.

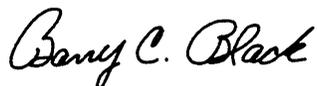
God's power was felt as I met yesterday with our endorsers. Spending the entire morning with this important group, we discussed ways to better serve one another. First, I suggested the importance of them assisting us with the spiritual growth of their chaplains. Then we conversed about helping chaplains in transitioning to civilian life. Finally, we talked about how to more effectively use faith group publications to punctuate the superb ministry that Chaplains are providing around-the-clock.

These dedicated servants are committed to being our key allies in touching the lives of God's people in the Sea Services and using their influence in the civilian sector.

We work to strengthen alliances by preparing for our February, Senior Leadership Conference (SLC) in Orlando. The emphasis will be on servant leadership, or as the CNO describes it, covenant leadership. Resource people from the Greenleaf organization will facilitate and help us lay the theoretical foundation for this experience. SLC 2002 will energize us toward higher faithfulness.

I continue to be thankful for your faithfulness. In my travel and visits, leaders applaud your accomplishments. I see you in action and marvel at your talents. I hear your optimism when facing setbacks and disappointments. Even in the storms, you remain calm, trusting the faithfulness of Him who has been our help in ages past and is our hope for the years to come. I appreciate you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry C. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Barry C. Black
Rear Admiral, CHC, U.S. Navy
Chief of Chaplains