

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH PENNANT (FLAG)

Every now and then I receive requests for information concerning the "church flag". This object that they are referring to is neither a flag nor a pennant of any church.

It is a naval signal pennant, listed in the Naval Signal Book. It is flown only during Christian/Judea worship service, both at sea and ashore.

Over the years there has been considerable confusion over the shape and color of the pennant and the style and color of the cross. It has always been a triangle and white, never swallow tailed. The proportions are three feet high at the staff edge. The length is eight feet, nine inches. Bars of the Latin cross is six inches broad. The short bar is eighteen inches long and parallel to the three foot edge and the long bar is thirty-six inches long, projecting six inches above the short bar. The head of the cross is six inches from the three foot edge. The Latin cross is navy blue.

There is some evidence that the cross was Greek, but between 1851 and 1869, it became a Latin cross and still is.

Periodically the church pennant is mentioned in ships' deck logs as far back as 1822, "General Orders" mentions worship flag being raised during religious service and referred to it as a flag for all churches. It also is the earliest to note that the church pennant was to be flown above the national flag on the same host. This use is interpreted as true patriotism and to our loyalty to God.

In 1861 Admiral David C. Farragut, in 1869 the Signal Code Book, and in 1872 Admiral Preble's Book of Flags all affirm these instructions.

At 1400, 20 October 1976, aboard the USS GUAM, (LPH-9), the Jewish worship pennant was hoisted for the first time at Norfolk Naval Station. The address was given by RADM John J.

O'Connor representing the SECNAV. The pennant is the same size and a white field with the Tablets of the Law and the Star of David in navy blue.

There is ample evidence that Navies of the Old World had used a worship flag or pennant.

THE OLD SAGE

Ann: I have plenty of photos to choose from.

U.S. NAVY CHAPLAINS AND THE SHIPS NAMED AFTER THEM

During the course of the United States history, Navy chaplains have demonstrated courage, dedication, and resourcefulness as they have performed their duties; and their contributions have been recognized in various ways. Seven chaplains have had ships named after them. This article will briefly discuss those chaplains and describe the ships.

1. LIVERMORE. Samuel Livermore, the first naval chaplain to be thus honored, was born in Concord, New Hampshire, 26 August 1786. Graduating from Harvard University in 1804, he practiced law in Boston. During the War of 1812, Captain James Lawrence, a personal friend, appointed him as chaplain aboard the USS CHESAPEAKE.

On 1 June 1813 the CHESAPEAKE engaged the HMS SHANNON in battle just outside Boston. Lawrence was mortally wounded and the British under the personal leadership of Captain Broke boarded the CHESAPEAKE. According to one account, Chaplain Livermore seized a pistol and fired at Captain Broke. The bullet missed the captain and hit a seaman. According to another account, the chaplain, with a cutlass, inflicted a serious head wound on the captain, which incapacitated him for the rest of his life. Both accounts agree that the captain fought back and with his "mighty Toledo blade" knocked the chaplain to the deck with a severe wound on the arm. The British were victorious and took the CHESAPEAKE with her survivors to Halifax, where Captain Lawrence died.

Prisoners were soon exchanged and Chaplain Livermore arrived at Newport, Rhode Island, on 24

June and soon back in service as a purser. He was the first U.S. naval chaplain to be wounded in combat, and also the first to be captured. He served several ships as purser and as chaplain prior to his leaving the naval service in 1816 to practice law. He died in 1833.

The USS LIVERMORE (DD429) was laid down 6 March 1939, launched 3 August 1940, and commissioned 7 October 1940. She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register 19 July 1956 and scrapped in 1961.

2. KIRKPATRICK. Thomas L. Kirkpatrick was born 5 July 1887, in Cozad, Nebraska, and was appointed to the chaplaincy 19 February 1918. His principal assignments included North Dakota, Utah, Pittsburgh, Saratoga, Naval Station Samoa, and the Arizona, where he reported in 1940. He was promoted to captain 1 July 1941.

Chaplain Kirkpatrick, a Presbyterian (USA), lost his life when Arizona was sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor 7 December 1941.

USS KIRKPATRICK (DE 318) was launched 5 June 1943, sponsored by Mrs. Genevieve Kirkpatrick, widow of chaplain Kirkpatrick; and was commissioned 23 October 1943. She was decommissioned 1 May 1946.

Kirkpatrick was reclassified as a radar picket ship (DER 318) on 1 October 1951 and recommissioned 23 February 1952. Performed radar picket duties in the North Atlantic until 24 June 1960, when she was again decommissioned and placed in the Atlantic Reserve Fleet. She was sold for scrap 1 April 1975.

3. SCHMITT. Aloysius H. Schmitt was born on 4 December 1909 in St. Lucas, Iowa, and was

appointed acting chaplain with the rank of Lieutenant (junior grade) on 28 June 1939. Serving on his first sea tour, he was hearing confessions on board the USS OKLAHOMA (BB 37) when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. When the ship capsized, he was entrapped along with several other members of the crew in a compartment where only a small porthole provided a means of escape. He assisted others through the porthole, giving up his own chance to escape, so that more men might be rescued. He received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal posthumously for his courage and self-sacrifice. St. Francis Xavier Chapel, erected at Camp Lejeune in 1942, was dedicated in his memory.

The USS SCHMITT (DE 676) was laid down on 22 February 1943, launched on 29 May 1943, and was commissioned on 24 July 1943. She was decommissioned and placed in reserve on 28 June 1949 and struck from the Navy list on 1 May 1967.

4. O'CALLAHAN, Joseph T. O'Callahan was born in Boston, Massachusetts, 14 May 1905. He received his training for the Roman Catholic priesthood at St. Andrews College, Poughkeepsie, New York, and at Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Prior to his being commissioned as a Navy chaplain on 7 August 1940, he was head of the mathematics department at Holy Cross College. His earlier duty stations included the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida; USS RANGER; and Naval Air Station, Hawaii.

Chaplain O'Callahan was the senior chaplain aboard the USS FRANKLIN (CV 13) when the ship was attacked off the coast of Kobe, Japan, on 19 March 1945. After the ship received at least two well-placed bomb hits, fuel and ammunition began exploding and fires were rampant. The final casualty count listed 341 dead, 431 missing, and 300 wounded. Captain L. E. Gehres,

commander of the carrier, saw Chaplain O'Callahan manning a hose which played on bombs so they would not explode, throwing hot ammunition overboard, giving last rites of his church to the dying, organizing fire fighters, and performing other acts of courage, and exclaimed, "O'Callahan is the bravest man I've ever seen in my life."

Chaplain O'Callahan received the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained that day. He and three other heroes of the war were presented the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman. He was the first chaplain of any of the armed services to be so honored. He was released from active duty 12 November 1946 to resume his teaching duties. He died in 1964.

USS O'CALLAHAN (DE 1051) was laid down 19 February 1964; launched 20 October 1965, being sponsored by Sister Rose Marie O'Callahan, sister of Chaplain O'Callahan and the first nun to sponsor a U.S. Navy ship; and commissioned 13 July 1968 at Boston Naval Shipyard, Boston, Massachusetts. She had her shakedown out of San Diego and later has operated largely in antisubmarine training and reconnaissance in the Western Pacific. In 1975 the hull designation was changed from DE to FF. In 1982-83 she had an eight-month deployment in the Indian Ocean. She was decommissioned 20 December 1988.

5. RENTZ. George Snavely Rentz was one of twenty-four Navy chaplains who served in World War I and remained on active duty to serve also during World War II. Born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, 22 July 1882, Chaplain Rentz, a Presbyterian (USA), entered the Chaplain Corps in 1917 and began active duty at the Marine Barracks, Port Royal, South Carolina. His later assignments included the FLORIDA (BB 30); the WEST VIRGINIA (BB 48); the AUGUSTA (CA 31); Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida; Naval Air Station, San Diego, California; the Eleventh Naval district and the HOUSTON (CA 30). he was serving in the HOUSTON when he

distinguished himself under battle conditions.

On 4 February 1942, when HOUSTON came under heavy Japanese air attack in the Flores Sea, Rentz spurned cover and instead circulated among the crews of the antiaircraft battery, encouraging them. An officer later wrote that after the "men at the guns saw this man of God walking fearlessly among them, they were inspired and felt no longer alone."

After HOUSTON was sunk on 1 March 1942, "gallantly fighting to the last against overwhelming odds" in the Battle of Sunda Strait, Chaplain Rentz entered the water wearing a life jacket and reached safety on what was apparently the spare main float of one of HOUSTON'S lost planes. He found it dangerously overloaded and--seeing wounded survivors, some without life jackets, struggling to remain afloat--determined to relinquish both his life jacket and his place on the float, declaring: "You men are young; I have lived the major part of my life and I am willing to go." Finding no one who would let him carry out his wish, however, Chaplain Rentz remained with his shipmates for a time, encouraging them with hymns and prayers. He persistently sought to give away his life jacket, and several times managed to leave, but he was detected and brought back, although physically weaker each time. Ultimately he succeeded in placing his life jacket by a wounded sailor and slipping away.

The USS RENTZ (FFG 46) was laid down 18 September 1982. It was launched 16 July 1983, on which occasion Mrs. Neil F. Lansing, daughter of Chaplain Rentz, was the sponsor and Rear Admiral Ross H. Trower, CHC, USN, then Chief of Chaplains, was the principal speaker. The RENTZ was commissioned on 23 June 1984.

6. CAPODANNO. Vincent R. Capodanno was born in Richmond County, New York 13

February 1929. He was an avid swimmer and a great sports enthusiast. After receiving his training at Fordham University, New York City; Maryknoll Seminary College in Glen Ellyn, Illinois; and Maryknoll Seminaries in Bedford, Massachusetts and New York City, he was ordained 7 June 1957 by the late Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of the United States Military Ordinariate. Shortly thereafter he began an eight-year period of service in Taiwan and Hong Kong under the auspices of the Catholic Foreign Mission society.

Chaplain Capodanno received his commission in the grade of lieutenant 28 December 1965. Having requested duty with Marines in Vietnam, he joined the First Marine Division in 1966 as Battalion Chaplain. He extended his one-year tour by six months in order to continue his work with the men. While seeking to aid a wounded corpsman, he was fatally wounded on 4 September 1967 by enemy sniper fire in the Quang Tin Province. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty...." He had previously been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for bravery under battle conditions.

The USS CAPODANNO (DE 1093) keel was laid 25 February 1972; she was christened and launched 21 October 1972 and commissioned 17 November 1973. She is designed for optimum performance in antisubmarine warfare. Deployments have included operations in the Western Atlantic, West Africa, the Mediterranean, and South America. She was decommissioned on 30 July 1993.

7. LABOON. John Francis Laboon, Jr. was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 11 April 1921.

U.S. Naval Academy, BS 43; Woodstock Col, BA, PHL 52, MA 53; ORD, Archbp Keough, Woodstock, MD, 17 Jun 56.

LT, USN 7/40-10/46.

COMM, LTJG, CHC, USNR 17 FEB 1957 to rank from 17 JUL 55. CS, Newport RI, 9/58-11/58; NAS Patuxent, Patuxent, MD, 11/58-3/59; COMSUBLANT, New London, CT, 4/59-4/61; SERVRON 3, Yokosuka, Japan, 5/61-4/63; NTC Great Lakes, Great Lakes IL, 5/63-4/65; NS Kodiak, Kodiak, AK, 5/65-4/66; USNA, Annapolis MD, 5/66-3/69; 3RD Marines, RVN, 4/69-4/70; NAS Saufley Fld, Pensacola, FL, 5/70-5/72; COMSERVPAC, Asst Flt Chap U S PACFLT, HI, 6/72-11/75; SUBBASE, New London, CT, 11/75-11/76; OIC, FRSA, NORFOLK VA, 11/76-10/78; Flt Chap LANTFLT, Norfolk VA, 10/78-11/80; APT, USN 1965; CAPT 1 Jul 72. Awarded A & D, Silver Star Medal; Combat Action Ribbon; Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal; Retired 1 Nov 1980. First chaplain assigned to POLARIS submarine squadron. February 20, 1993 the "Fearless 58" was launched at Bath Iron Works. LABOON, which honors Father John F. "Jake" Laboon, is one of only seven ships in the 216 year history of the Navy to be named for a Chaplain. She is the eighth ship of the prestigious ARLEIGH BURKE class destroyers, among the most survivable and formidable ships ever put to sea.

Of the seven chaplains, four (Schmitt, O'Callahan, Capodanno, and Laboon) were Roman Catholic; two (Kirkpatrick and Rentz) were Presbyterian. The affiliation of Livermore is unknown to this writer.

Their ages and ranks varied. Of those who lost their lives, Schmitt and Capodanno were lieutenants, aged 32 and 38 respectively; Kirkpatrick was a 54-year old captain and Rentz was a

60 year old commander (inconsistencies in legislation had held up promotions for chaplains for some years). Of those who lived beyond the performance of the deeds for which they were distinguished, Livermore was almost 27 at the time and O'Callahan was 32.

During the time of Livermore's service, chaplains had no rank; O'Callahan was a lieutenant commander in the Franklin but was later a commander. He did not remain on active duty for a full career, only LABOON did..

These chaplains could be compared at length in other ways. It is deemed sufficient, however, simply to note that they were more alike than different. They were alike in their love for God and country, alike in their concern for those who needed their ministry in the name of God during times of national crisis, alike in their hope for a better world through increased understanding and peace among nations.

WILLIAM E. TAYLOR, USN (RET.)

ARCHIVIST

'PRAISE THE LORD AND PASS THE AMMUNITION'

Robert H. Warren
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"Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition"

A popular song written by Frank Loesser appearing early in World War II was "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition". Its lyrics went like this:

"Down went the gunner, a bullet was his fate. Down went the gunner, and then the gunner's mate; Up jumped the sky pilot, gave the boys a look, and manned the gun himself as he laid aside The Book. shouting:

Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition, praise the Lord and pass the ammunition, praise the Lord and pass the ammunition and we'll all stay free.

Yes, the sky pilot said it; you've got to give him credit for a son of a gun of a gunner was he, shouting:

Praise the Lord, we're on a mighty mission! All aboard! We're not a going fishin', Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition and we'll all stay free."

When a nation goes to war as this country did in December 1941, myths frequently spring up that remain in the footnotes of history as facts. An example is the song "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" which was one of the first patriotic war songs of World War II. Scuttle butt had it that the "gunner" of this song was a chaplain who had manned a gun on one of the battleships under attack at Pearl Harbor. Life magazine on the front of its 2 November 1942 issue published the picture of Chaplain W. A. Maguire, USN, and attributed the saying to him. Chaplain Maguire who had been the Pacific Fleet chaplain on 7 December 1941 denied making the famous statement. 1

What really happened was quite different. The exclamation "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" was coined by Chaplain Howell M. Forgy aboard the heavy cruiser USS NEW ORLEANS (CA-32) on the day of the Pearl Harbor attack. He was born in Philadelphia in January of 1908 and was educated at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio. Before entering seminary he worked as a gold miner, a road builder and as a boss for a dynamite crew. Graduating from Princeton Seminary in 1938 he was ordained a Presbyterian minister and served small churches in Colorado mining country and in Murray, Kentucky. 2

He came on active duty as a chaplain (LTJG) in October of 1940 and was assigned to the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes until 2 January 1941. On 24 January of that year he reported for duty aboard the USS NEW ORLEANS (CA-32), a 10,000 ton heavy cruiser commissioned in 1934. The ship carried 9 eight-inch guns in three main turrets and 8 five-inch guns in single mounts as secondary batteries. 3

On December 7th the New Orleans was tied up at Pearl Harbor undergoing voyage repairs. The padre was lying in his bunk mulling over the sermon he was preparing to give in the airplane hanger aft of the well deck. His sermon topic was "WE REACH FORWARD" and was based on St. Paul's words: "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before". He had planned to tell his shipmates that their fate lay in the days ahead and not in those days that had passed. 4

Suddenly the tranquility of the Hawaiian morning was broken by the sound of sporadic gunfire. This was followed by the deafening sound of the General Quarters alarm and the screeching wail of the bo'sun's pipe calling all hands to their battle stations. The five-inch anti-aircraft guns from other ships in the harbor began firing causing a growing crescendo of explosions. The chaplain ran down to his battle station in the sick bay where he was joined by the medical officer. The noise rapidly increased. To find out what was happening he ran up to the well deck which provided a good view of the harbor. 5

Five hundred yards off the starboard quarter along Battleship Row, the USS Arizona had exploded sending a huge cloud of black smoke thousands of feet into the air. The USS West Virginia hit by bombs and torpedoes was sagging amidships. Forward of the West Virginia, USS Oklahoma was rolling over, bottom sides up, her sailors jumping into the water. Off to starboard a Japanese dive bomber was making a run on the battleship California. The bomb hit her amidships. There was an explosion, then fire and smoke. One enemy bomber began a run towards the New Orleans. Her gunners supported by anti-aircraft fire from nearby ships hit the plane which crashed near the Naval Hospital. 6

Hurrying back to sick bay Chaplain Forgy passed by the ward room. Noticing sunlight pouring into the room he stopped to dog down the port holes to prevent water from coming in. Continuing on to sick bay he noticed the passageway was dark. Gropping through the darkness he made his way back down into the sick bay to tell the medical officer what he had seen on deck. Through the dim light provided by the self powered battle lanterns he could see his instruments laid out waiting for the first casualties. 7

Outside sick bay the voice of one of the gunners mates boomed out telling his men to get lines down a hatch into the magazines. One of the junior officers could be heard rounding up a working party around the ammunition hoist to begin moving the shells up to the guns by hand. When the attack began the shore lines were cut believing the ship would immediately get under way. In the confusion of the attack the cable providing shore power to the ship had also been cut leaving the ammunition hoists powerless. The only ammunition available to the guns were the rounds in the ready boxes. To keep firing, fresh ammunition had to be moved by hand. 8

Ropes were dropped down into the magazine and tied around the five-inch shells weighing nearly a hundred pounds. The shells were pulled up by hand, untied,

and then boosted onto the backs of sailors who carried them up two flights of ladders to the waiting hungry guns. It wasn't long before the heat and fatigue began to grind the men down. Though quickly exhausted the ammunition line struggled on. 9

Chaplain Forgy was now near the hatch observing the ordeal. The men were sweating and staggering under the heavy loads. The gunners were frantic for more shells. As a non-combatant he could not take part in the fighting, but he felt if the men were encourage they could over come their physical exhaustion. He walked along the line of weary sailors, slapped their wet, sticky backs and shouted:

"PRAISE THE LORD AND PASS THE AMMUNITION!" 10

The officer in charge of the ammunition handling party tells what he experienced. "I heard a voice behind me saying: "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition. I turned and saw Chaplain Forgy walking toward me along the line of men. He was patting them on their backs and repeating his words of encouragement. This cheered them up and helped keep them going. I know it helped me a lot, too." 11

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor the song became famous. Within the New Orleans the chaplain took a lot of kidding and was encouraged to tell the real story to the press. He was reluctant, believing that the episode should remain a legend rather than be associated with any particular person. Later on the press was allowed to meet the men who had worked passing the ammunition. Chaplain Forgy was then presented by the command to tell for the record what really happened. The song writer had taken liberties with the event portraying the chaplain as manning a gun which was not true. It was pointed out that Chaplain Forgy as a non-combatant had done nothing contrary to the regulations of the Geneva Convention. 12

After Pearl Harbor the New Orleans was in the thick of many battles. At the Battle of the Coral Sea in May of 1942, she recovered survivors from the carrier Lexington when she went down. One month later at the Battle of Midway survivors were rescued from the carrier Yorktown. On 29 November, 1942 as part of Task Force 67 New Orleans and four other cruisers were on patrol off Tassaforanga. Near midnight they intercepted 8 enemy destroyers and 6 transports bringing reinforcements to Guadalcanal. New Orleans was hit by a torpedo that blew off her bow and fo'c'sle up to No. 2 turret. Many of Chaplain Forgy's shipmates were killed that night. 13

The crippled cruiser returned to the United States for repairs and in April, 1943 Chaplain Forgy was detached. During the remainder of the war he served at the Receiving Station San Francisco, Naval Air Technical Training Command in Norman, Oklahoma and in the carrier Bunker Hill. The chaplain returned to civilian life May 1946 having attained the rank of Commander. He died in Glendora, California January 1972. He was buried at sea. 14

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U.S. NAVY CHAPLAINS NOTED
FOR BEING FIRST IN VARIOUS HISTORICAL EVENTS
REVISED 11-16-01

- 1778 Reverend Benjamin Balch (Cong), first known Chaplain to serve in the Continental Navy, who later served in U.S.F. Alliance in 1981.
- 1779 Reverend William Balch, (Cong), son of Benjamin is first known to be commissioned Chaplain, U.S.N.
- 1802 Chaplain Alexander McFarlan , the first Episcopalian Chaplain, U.S.N.
- 1811 Chap David P. Adams (Cong), becomes the first and only Navy Chaplain known to have command of a war vessel under the U.S. Flag.
- 1813 Samuel Livermore,(UNK) aboard USF Chesapeake fights to protect his Captain, becoming the first Navy Chaplain wounded in combat, and the first Chaplain to have a warship named in his honor.
- 1816 David Folsom, the first Unitarian Chaplain is also teacher to Midshipman David G. Farragut who would become the first American admiral.
- 1824 Adam Marshall (RC), the first Roman Catholic Priest to serve but is listed as school master.
- 1829 Charles S. Stewart (Presby), becomes the first chaplain to circumnavigate the world aboard U.S.F. Vincennes.
- 1830 Edward McLaughlin is the first navel chaplain to protest in writing the custom of flogging.
- 1842 George Jones is the first chaplain to introduce coffee and sugar in place of the drink known as grog.
- 1845 George Jones (P.E.), is the first of an eighth-member board for the newly opened U.S. Naval Academy.
- 1846 Chaplain Walter Colton (Cong), sailing with Commodore Sloat becomes the first Protestant clergy in California.
- 1846 Chaplain Colton also publishes the first American newspaper and impanels the first jury in California.
- 1850 Addison Searle (PE) dies at sea. He is the first Chaplain to serve 30 years on active duty.
- 1859 Chaplain Henry Wood (Presby) is the first Protestant clergy to enter the forbidden city of Peking, China.

- 1862 John L. Lenhart (Meth) becomes the first Navy Chaplain killed in combat aboard the U.S.F. Cumberland sank by CSC Virginia.
- 1872 Joseph Stockbridge (Bap) becomes the first Chaplain promoted to Captain.
- 1888 Charles H. Parks becomes the Navy's first Roman Catholic Chaplain.
- 1902 Thomas A. Gill (Bap) is the first chaplain promoted to Rear Admiral upon his retirement.
- 1907 Sidney K. Evans (PE) is the last "Politically Appointed" Chaplain, he became the fourth Chief of Chaplains.
- 1912 John F. Flemming (Bap) becomes the first chaplain known to have exclusive duty with U.S.M.C.
- 1914 Bower R. Patrick (Bap) is the first chaplain assigned full time to the U.S.M.C.
- 1915 Herbert Dumstrey becomes the first Chaplain from the Reformed Church.
- 1916 Paul E. Seidler is the first Lutheran Chaplain.
- 1917 Rabbi David Goldberg is the first Jewish Chaplain
- 1917 John B. Frazier (Meth) is appointed the first Chief of Chaplain.
- 1918 Chaplain John B. Frazier writes the first Chaplain's Manual.
- 1918 Richard J. Davis is the first Christian Science chaplain.
- 1941 John W. Bond is the first Latter Day Saint Chaplain.
- 1941 Aloysius H. Schmitt (RC) is the first chaplain killed in WWII becoming also the first Roman Catholic Chaplain KIA.
- 1943 Harlon M Miller (Luth) the first chaplain assigned full time to the Coast Guard.
- 1944 Chaplain Clifford M. Drury (Presby) assigned first official chaplain corps historian.
- 1944 James R. Brown (AME) is the first black navy Chaplain.
- 1944 Thomas D. Parham Jr. (Presby) while the second black Navy chaplain is the first to serve a full career and attain the rank of Captain.
- 1945 Joseph T. O'Callahan(RC) is the first chaplain awarded the Medal of Honor.
- 1945 Robert J. White is the first reserve chaplain to attain the rank of Commodore.

- 1947 Henry J. Rotrige is the first Catholic chaplain on the Naval Academy staff
- 1973 Florence D. Pohlman (Presby) is the first female navy chaplain.
- 1974 Vivian P. McFadden (Meth) is the first black female navy chaplain.
- 1978 Christine Miller (Elca) becomes the first female chaplain assigned sea duty and USMC duty.
- 1980 Harry F. McCall (Pusa) becomes the first director of the Chaplain Resource Board
- 1983 Eddy Moran (CP) becomes the first chaplain of the Coast Guard.
- 1985 Martha E. Bradley (Cme) becomes the first female Chaplain assigned Coast Guard duty.
- 1989 Margaret Kibbins (Pusa) becomes the first female chaplain assigned to the U.S. Naval Academy staff.
- 1993 Margaret Kibbin (Pusa) becomes first female chaplain assigned to the Naval War College staff.
- 1996 Malak Noel becomes the first muslin chaplain.
- 1997 Eileen O'Hickey (UCC) becomes the first female chaplain promoted to Captain
- 1998 Shelia Robertson (CP) becomes the first female chaplain assigned as Command chaplain aboard a Carrier.
- 2000 Eileen O'Hickey (UCC) becomes the first female chaplain to be assigned as major claimant staff chaplain.
- 2000 Shelia Robertson (CP) becomes the first female chaplain assigned as head of the Chaplain Resource Board
- 2002 Shelia Robertson (CP) becomes the first female chaplain assigned as 6th fleet chaplain.

Chaplain Corps "Heroes"

Chaplains Killed in Action:

John L. Lenhart (commissioned chaplain-no rank) (METH) 08 March 1862
USS CUMBERLAND Hampton Roads VA
First Navy chaplain killed in action. Killed when CSS VIRGINIA (USS MERRIMACK)
attacked and sunk the CUMBERLAND off Newport News, VA.

CAPT Thomas L. Kirkpatrick, CHC, USN (PUSA) 07 December 1941
USS ARIZONA
Killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor. USS KIRKPATRICK named in his honor in 1943.

LT (Acting Chaplain) Aloysius H. Schmitt (RC) 07 December 1941
USS OKLAHOMA
Conducting Mass when USS OKLAHOMA was bombed at Pearl Harbor. Lost his life
trying to save shipmates when the ship capsized. Awarded the Navy and Marine Corps
Medal posthumously. USS SCHMITT named in his honor in 1943.

CDR George S. Rentz, CHC, USN (PUSA) 28 February 1942
USS HOUSTON
Gave his life jacket to others as his ship was being sunk by gunfire in the Sunda Strait.
Awarded Navy Cross posthumously. USS RENTZ named in his honor.

LTJG John J. McGarrity, CHC, USN (RC) 28 February 1942
USS LANGLEY
Missing when ship was sunk by Japanese aircraft just south of Tjilatjap, Java. Declared
dead in 1945.

LT Anthony J. Conway, CHC, USNR (RC) 23 July 1944
1st Battalion, 22nd Marines
Killed in the second day of the battle of Guam.

LCDR Herbert R. Trump, CHC, USN (Luth) 27 January 1945
4th Marines
Taken prisoner 6 May 1942 at surrender of Corregidor. Died on Japanese prison ship.

LT Eugene Russell Shannon, CHC, USNR (Episcopal) 21 February 1945
USS BISMARCK SEA
Died in strafing attack off Iwo Jima. After being wounded he ministered to others around him. Awarded Navy and Marine Corps Medal posthumously.

LT Fidelis M. Wieland, CHC, USNR (RC) 02 May 1945
USS COMFORT
Died in hospital on Guam from wounds received 28 April with USS COMFORT was hit by kamikaze.

LT Joseph J. Kobel, CHC, USNR (RC) 21 June 1945
USS CURTISS
Killed instantly when his ship was struck by kamikaze off Okinawa.

LT Thomas M. Conway, CHC, USNR (RC) 30 June 1945
USS INDIANAPOLIS
Killed between Guam and the Philippines when his ship was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine.

LT David L. Quinn, CHC, USNR (E) 07 January 1945
Taken prisoner 26 January 1941 at the fall of Manila. Died on Japanese prison ship.

LT Francis J. McManus, CHC, USN (RC) last week of January 1945
USS CANOPUS
Taken prisoner at surrender of Corregidor. Died on Japanese prison ship. Awarded Silver Star posthumously.

LT Floyd Withrow, CHC, USNR (UP) 21 June 1945
USS MISSISSIPPI
Died when kamikaze hit ship off Okinawa.

LT Vincent R. Capodanno, CHC, USNR (RC) 04 September 1967
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines
Died on battlefield. Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously.

LT Robert Brett, CHC, USNR (RC) 22 February 1968
3rd Battalion, 9th Marines Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam

Others:

CAPT Joseph T. O'Callahan, CHC, USNR

Senior Chaplain aboard USS FRANKLIN when the ship was attacked off the coast of Kobe, Japan, on 19 March 1945. Ministered to the dead and dying, organized fire fighters, manned hose to cool off ammunition. CO quoted saying "O'Callahan is the bravest man I've ever seen in my life." Awarded Purple Heart for wounds received that day. Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor by President Harry S Truman. USS O'CALLAHAN named in his honor commissioned in 1968.

CAPT John H. Craven, CHC, USN (SB)

Served with Marines through 4 campaigns in WWII and 3 in Korea. 4 visits to Vietnam as FMFPAC Chaplain and The Chaplain USMC. Awarded Bronze Star w/Combat "V", Bronze Star w/Gold Star 1944, 1950. Retired as Chaplain of the Marine Corps.

CAPT Thomas David Parham, CHC, USN (UP)

First Black O-6 in the U.S. Navy. Chaplain on CNO Drug Abuse Team. Served as Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Human Relations.

CAPT John Francis Laboon, Jr., CHC, USN (RC)

Naval Academy graduate ('43). Served as line LT in submarine service during WWII. Awarded Silver Star for saving downed pilot. USS LABOON, commissioned in 1993 named in his honor.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

(1814)

Words by
Francis Scott Key(1779-1843)

Music attributed to
John Stafford Smith(1750-1836)

Majestically

1. O—say! can you see, by the dawn's ear-ly light? What so
2. On the shore dim-ly seen thro' the mists of the deep, Where the
3. O—thus be it e'er when free men shall stand Be -

proud - ly we hail'd at the twi-light's last gleam-ing? Whose broad
foe's haugh-ty host in dread si-lence re - pos - es, What is
tween their loved homes and the war's des - o - la-tion! Blest with

stripes and bright stars, thro' the per-il-ous fight, O'er the
that which the breeze, o'er the tow-er-ing steep, As it
vic - t'ry and peace, may the heav'n res-cued land Praise the

ram - parts we watch'd, were so gal-lant-ly stream-ing? And the
fit - ful - ly blows, half con-ceals, half dis - clos - es? Now it
Pow'r that hath made and pre-served us a na - tion! Then—

Designated the National Anthem of the United States by act of Congress 3 March 1931.

F7 B \flat F7 B \flat F B \flat F7

rock-et's red glare, the bombs burst - ing in air— Gave
 catch-es the gleam of the morn - ing's first beam,— In full
 con-quer we must, when our cause it is just,— And

cresc.
 B \flat F B \flat F F7 B \flat Gm C7 F F7

proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. O
 glo - ry re - flect - ed, now shines on the stream; 'Tis The
 this be our mot - to: "In God is our trust!" And The

slightly slower
 B \flat Cm B \flat E \flat G7 Cm G Cm C7 B \flat F F7

say does that— Star-Span-gled Ban - ner— yet— wave O'er the
 Star-Span-gled Ban-ner O long may— it— wave O'er the
 Star-Span-gled Ban-ner in tri - umph— shall— wave O'er the

B \flat F B \flat F7 B \flat Gm E \flat m B \flat *slow* F7 B \flat

land of the free and the home of the brave?
 land of the free and the home of the brave!
 land of the free and the home of the brave!

U.S. NAVY CHAPLAIN CORPS CHC GREY SHEPHERD AWARD

CRITERIA: "THE CHAPLAIN WITH THE EARLIEST EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPOINTMENT AMONG THE CAPTAINS ON ACTIVE DUTY, NOT HAVING BEEN RETIRED/RETAINED." (AS AMENDED BY RADM ROSS H. TROWER, CHC, USN, CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, 9 MAY 83)

GRAY SHEPHERD	DATE OF AWARD
ROY EDWARD BISHOP	1 JAN. 62
ROLAND WILLIAM FAULK	1 JUL 67
ROBERT MARION SCHWYHART	1 MAR 68
ABNER RAY COOK	1 JUL 68
JOHN THOMAS MCLAUGHLIN	1 AUG 68
ROBERT WOOD COE, JR.	1 JUL 70
HENERY JOHN ROTRIDGE	1 JUL 72
ROBERT FRANCIS McCOMAS	1 JUL 72
HAROLD ARTHUR MACNEILL	1 JUL 74
GERALD HORNOR SARGENT	1 JUL 75
ROSS HENRY TROWER	1 JUL 77
MALCOLM ATWOOD CARPENTER	1 JUL 80
THOMAS DAVID PARHAM	1 FEB 81
GEORGE TRUETT BOYD	1 APR 82
JOHN WILLIAM COHILL	1 JUL 82
WILLIAM CALVIN FULLER	1 JUL 83
HARRY RHODES MILLER	1 OCT 83
CHARLES LOVETT KEYSER	1 JUL 85
KEVIN JAMES CORTNEY	1 JUL 86
MAX ALFRED ELLER	7 JUL 87
ADNA WAYNE RIGGS	1 SEP 87
CLARK BUCKERIDGE MCPHAIL	1 JUL 88
HARRY FRANKLIN MACCALL, III	1 SEP 88
ROBERT EUGENE GORDON	1 AUG 89
HERBERT MAX GOETZ, JR.	1 SEP 90
CARROLL ROGER SPENCER	1 DEC 90
WILFRED BENSON MACK	1 SEP 91
WALTER ALVIN HISKETT	1 MAR 92
EARL LAWRENCE BOYETTE	1 JUL 92
ROBERT WILLIAM DUKE	1 FEB 93
THOMAS FREDERICK JOHNSON	1 MAY 93
JAMES GILMER GOODE	1 JUL 94
IVAN FULLER	1 JUL 95
FRED A. ROTHERMEL	24 JUL 96
FRED R. ZOBEL	1 JUL 98

JAMES F. MENNIS
VICTOR H. SMITH
THOMAS G. GIUNTOLI
MOSES L. STITH

1 SEP 99
1 SEP 00
1 SEP 02
1 SEP 03

REVISED 12-24-03 William E. Taylor
CRB Archivist

PRAYER AT THE SURRENDER OF JAPAN
ABOARD USS MISSOURI (BB 63)

2 September 1945

by

Roland W. Faulk
Chaplain, U.S. Navy

Eternal God, Father of all living, we offer our sincere prayer of Thanksgiving to Thee on this day, which we now dedicate to peace among the nations, remembering another Sabbath day that was desecrated by the beginning of this brutal war. We are thankful that those who have loved peace have been rewarded with victory over those who have loved war. May it ever be so!

On this day of deliverance we pray for those who, through long years, have been imprisoned, destitute, sick, and forsaken. Heal their bodies and their spirits, O God, for their wounds are grievous and deep. May the scars which they bear remind us that victory is not bought without cost and peace is not without price. May we never forget those who have paid the cost of our victory and our peace.

On this day of surrender we turn hopefully from war to peace, from destroying to building, from killing to saving. But peace without justice we know is hopeless and justice without mercy Thou wilt surely despise. Help us, therefore, O God, to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly before Thee.

We pray for Thy servant, the President of the United States, and for all the leaders of all lands that they may be endowed with wisdom sufficient for their great tasks. Grant unto all the peoples of the earth knowledge of Thee with courage and faith to abide within the shelter of Thy sovereign law. Amen.

SAILOR'S CREED

I am a United States Sailor.

I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of my superiors.

I represent the fighting spirit of Navy Bluejackets who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world.

I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team, with honor, commitment and courage.

I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

2

Words by (1907)
 CAPT Alfred H. Miles, USN Music by
 Revised lyrics by George D. Lottman LT Charles A. Zimmermann, USN.

Lively march tempo

C Am C G7
 Stand, Na - vy, out to sea, Fight our bat - tle
 An - chors A - weigh my boys, An - chors A -

C F C E Am D
 cry; We'll nev - er change our course, So vi - cious
 weigh Fare well to col - lege joys, We sail at

D7 G G7 C Am
 foe steer shy - y - y - y Roll out the T. N.
 break of day - day - day - day! Through our last night on

C G7 C F C
 T. An - chors A - weigh Sail on to vic - to -
 shore, Drink to the foam, Un - til we meet once

E Am C G7 C
 ry And sink their bones to Da - vy Jones, hoo - ray!
 more Here's wish - ing you a hap - py voy - age home.

End

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2 continued

E7 Am E7
 — Yo ho there ship - mate, take the fight - ing to the far - off
 Heave a - ho there sail - or, ev - 'ry - bo - dy drink up while you

Am D7 G D7
 seas; — Yo ho there mess - mate, hear the wail - ing of the wild ban -
 may; Heave a - ho there sail - or, for you're gon - na sail at break of

G G7 C G
 shees. All hands fire - brands Let's blast them as we go. So
 day, Drink a - way, drink a - way, For you sail at break of day, Hey!

From beginning to End

ORIGINAL VERSION

1. Stand Navy down the field,
 Sails set to the sky,
 We'll never change our course,
 So Army you steer shy - y - y - y.
 Roll up the score, Navy.
 Anchors Aweigh,
 Sail Navy down the field
 And sink the Army, sink the Army Grey.
2. Get under way, Navy,
 Decks cleared for the fray,
 We'll hoist true Navy Blue
 So Army down your Grey - y - y - y.
 Full speed ahead, Navy;
 Army heave to,
 Furl Black and Grey and Gold
 And hoist the Navy, hoist the Navy Blue.
3. Blue of the Seven Seas;
 Gold of God's great sun
 Let these our colors be
 Till all of time be done - n - n - e,
 By Severn shore we learn
 Navy's stern call:
 Faith, courage, service true
 With honor over, honor over all.

Prayer for a Pilot

May the Saviour pilot thee
In the air, on land and sea;
May the craft held by thy hand
Testify to His command.
May the skies all speak to thee,
"Jesus, Lord, my Pilot be."

When the clouds, like waves at sea,
Bring on trouble, fearfully,
When the enemy presents
Lack of hope, and doubts commence,
May He bid the tempter flee
And your Saviour pilot thee.

When your plan charts rugged air
May you then to Him repair;
And I know, confidently,
As of old, and instantly,
He'll thy kind Deliverer be,
And I know He'll pilot thee.

Let Him fill thy mouth with praise
As you ride o'er heaven's waves.
May your voice echo the words:
Worship Him, our risen Lord.
He will set the captives free.
Tell them all, "He'll pilot thee."

June Griffin
April 4, 1983

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Can be sung to the tune of "Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me".
Music available upon request.

IDEA #2

Write an inclusive prayer which portrays the command mission, and highlights the core values, while calling sailors to live their spiritual faith.

The Sailor's Prayer

Lord and God, you command all things and your love never fails. Let me be aware of your presence and obedient to your purpose. In humility, guard me against dishonesty in purpose and deed.

Help me live each day with **honor** so that I can face my fellow shipmates, my loved ones, and you without shame or fear. While I am away, protect my family.

Let me experience **courage** to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Stay close to me and keep me focused on my goals to do the work of a warrior and be proficient in my daily performance.

Let my **commitment** to you and my country result in loyalty and honor to my superiors and to those sailors entrusted to my leadership. Make me considerate of those who live by noble traditions and creeds different than my own. Discipline me to wear my uniform with dignity and let it remind me daily of the connection I have with all Navy men and women from the past, present, and future.

If I am inclined to doubt, shore up my faith; if I am tempted, show me the path to righteousness. If I should fall short of my goal, encourage me to keep trying and never give up or give in. Sustain me always with your spirit and grace. AMEN.

Thy Sea So Great

Thy sea, O God, so great,
My boat so small.
It cannot be that any happy fate
Will me befall
Save as Thy goodness opens paths for me
Through the consuming vastness of the sea.

Thy winds, O God, so strong,
So slight my sail.
How could I curb and bit them on the long
And salty trail,
Unless Thy love were mightier than the
wrath
Of all the tempests that beset my path?

Thy world, O God, so fierce,
And I so frail.
Yet, though its arrows threaten oft to pierce
My fragile mail,
Cities of refuge rise where dangers cease,
Sweet silences abound, and all is peace.

WINTHROP BANKS GARRISON

PRAYER FOR
MERCHANT MARINER'S

O GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY THIS DAY FOR ALL SEA FAIRERS AND THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR NEEDS, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR MERCHANT MARINE. BLESS THEM WE PRAY AS THEY SERVE OUR COUNTRY AND OUR NAVY, SOME CLOSE TO HOME, BUT MOST FAR AWAY WHO ENDURE LONELY LIVES AWAY FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS PROVIDING OUR ACTIVE DUTY NAVY WITH ALL NECESSITIES OF LIFE IN THE REMOTEST AREAS OF THE WORLD.

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO DUTY, COUNTRY, AND FAMILY. AS WE PRAY HERE THIS DAY, WE OFFER THEM OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE AND PRAY YOUR BLESSING UPON THEM AS THEY KEEP THEIR WATCH IN PEACE AND WAR, ON EVERY SEA, IN THE DEFENSE OF ALL THAT WE HOLD DEAR.

WE REMEMBER THIS DAY THEIR PERSONAL SACRIFICES AND WE PRAY YOU LORD TO BE WITH THEM, NIGHT AND DAY AND TO HEAR THEIR EVERY NEED AS YOU WATCH OVER THEM, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR SERVICE TO OUR FORCES AFLOAT.

THIS THEN IS OUR PRAYER OFFERED THIS DAY IN YOUR HOLY NAME OUR LORD GOD. AMEN

CAPTAIN EDWARD J. KELLEY, CHC, USN
MSC CLAIMANT CHAPLAIN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Sts. 1-3. William Whiting, 1825-1878, cento, alt.
St. 4. Mary C. D. Hamilton

Meita S. S. S. S. S. S.
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1. E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
 2. O Christ! whose voice the wa - ters heard And hushed their rag - ing
 3. Most Ho - ly Spir - it! who didst brood Up - on the cha - os
 4. Lord, guard and guide the men who fly Through the great spac - es

rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep
 at thy word, Who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep,
 dark and rude, And bid its an - gry ru - mult cease,
 in the sky. Be with them al - ways in the air,

Its own ap - point - ed lim - its keep, O hear us when we
 And calm a - midst its rage didst sleep, O hear us when we
 And give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace, O hear us when we
 In dark - ening storms or sun - light fair. O hear us when we

cry to thee For those in per - il on the sea!
 cry to thee For those in per - il on the sea!
 cry to thee For those in per - il on the sea!
 lift our prayer For those in per - il in the air! A - men.

The Navy Prayer

“O Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; vouchsafe to take into Thy almighty and most gracious protection our country’s Navy and all who serve therein. Preserve them from the dangers of the sea and from the violence of the enemy; that they may be a safeguard unto the United States of America and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our land may in peace and quietness serve Thee our God to the glory of Thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Unraveling the origin of a famous WWII song

BY ROBERT H. WARREN

A popular song written by Frank Loesser appearing early in World War II was "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition." Its lyrics went like this:

"Down went the gunner, a bullet was his fate. Down went the gunner, and then the gunner's mate; Up jumped the sky pilot, gave the boys a look, and manned the gun himself as he laid aside The Book. Shouting:

"Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition, praise the Lord and pass the ammunition, praise the Lord and pass the ammunition and we'll all stay free.

"Yes, the sky pilot said it; you've got to give him credit, for a son of a gun of a gunner was he, shouting:

"Praise the Lord, we're on a mighty mission! All aboard! We're not a going fishin', Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition and we'll all stay free."

When a nation goes to war, as this country did in December 1941, myths spring up that remain in the footnotes of history as facts. An example is this song.

Scuttlebutt had it that the gunner in the song was a chaplain who manned a gun on one of the battleships attacked at Pearl Harbor. Life magazine, on the cover of its Nov. 2, 1942, issue published the picture of Navy Chaplain W.A. Maguire and attributed the saying to him. Maguire, who had been the Pacific Fleet chaplain on Dec. 7, 1941, denied making the statement.

What really happened was quite different. The phrase was coined by Chaplain Howell M. Forgy aboard the heavy cruiser New Orleans on the day of the Pearl Harbor attack.

On Dec. 7, the New Orleans was tied up at Pearl Harbor undergoing repairs. The padre was preparing a sermon.

Suddenly, the tranquility of the morning was broken by the sound of sporadic gunfire, followed by the deafening general quarters alarm and the wail of the bosun's pipe calling all hands to battle stations. The five-inch anti-aircraft guns from other ships in the harbor began a growing crescendo of explosions.

To find out what was happening, the chaplain

ran up to the well deck, which provided a good view of the harbor. Five hundred yards off the starboard quarter along Battleship Row, the Arizona had exploded, sending up a huge cloud of black smoke. The West Virginia, hit by bombs and torpedoes, was sagging amidships. In front of the West Virginia, the Oklahoma was rolling over, her sailors jumping into the water. A bomber began a run toward the New Orleans. Her gunners, supported by anti-aircraft fire from nearby ships, hit the plane, which crashed near the naval hospital.

Forgy headed below, groping through the darkness, and made his way to his battle station in the sick bay to tell what he had seen.

Outside sick bay, the voice of one of the gunner's mates boomed out to his men to get lines down a hatch into the magazines. A junior officer could be heard rounding up a working party around the ammunition hoist to begin moving the shells up to the guns by hand. When the attack began, the shore lines were cut to enable the ship to get under way. In the confusion of the attack, the cable providing shore power to the ship had also been cut, leaving the ammunition hoists powerless. To keep the guns firing, fresh ammunition had to be moved by hand.

Ropes were dropped into the magazine and tied around the shells weighing nearly a hundred pounds. The shells were pulled up by hand, untied, and then boosted onto the backs of sailors, who carried them up two flights of ladders to the waiting guns. The heat and fatigue began to grind the men down.

As a noncombatant, Forgy could not take part in the fighting, but he felt that if the men were encouraged, they could overcome their exhaustion. He walked along the line of sailors shouting, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!"

Shortly after the attack, the song became famous. On the New Orleans, the chaplain took a lot of kidding and was encouraged to tell the real story to the press. He was reluctant at first, believing that the episode should remain a legend rather than be associated with any particular person. But eventually he relented.

Robert H. Warren is a retired Navy chaplain who lives in Virginia Beach.

The Sailor's Prayer

Lord and God, you command all things and your love never fails. Let me be aware of your presence and obedient to your purpose. In humility, guard me against dishonesty in purpose and deed.

Help me to live each day with **honor** so that I can face my fellow shipmates, my loved ones and you without shame or fear. While I am away, protect my family.

Let me experience **courage** to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Stay close to me and keep me focused on my goals to do the work of a warrior and be proficient in my daily performance.

Let my **commitment** to you and my country result in loyalty and faith to my superiors and to those sailors entrusted to my leadership. Make me considerate of those who live by noble traditions and creeds different than my own. Discipline me to wear my uniform with dignity and let it remind me daily of the connection I have with all navy men and women from the past, present, and future.

If I am inclined to doubt, shore up my faith; if I am tempted, show me the path to righteousness. If I should fall short of my goal, encourage me to keep trying and never give up or give in. Sustain me always with your spirit and grace. AMEN.

BAPTISMS USING A SHIPS BELL

In the U.S, Navy this has been a traditional function, not a navy regulation. Therefore it is performed only with permission of the ship/station C.O. This tradition dates back to early British maritime shipping and the Royal Navy.

Many commands have a wooden cradle made to hold the inverted bell.

The baptism takes place on the quarterdeck of the ship/station. The child is held over the inverted bell and baptized using the appropriate baptismal ceremony of the child's religion. With the C.O.s permission the child's name, etc is engraved inside the bell.

A U.S.Navy bell is NEVER sold. All retired Navy bells are property of the Naval Historical Center.

The above information was obtained from the U.S.Naval History Center and the British Royal Navy Chief of Chaplains.

William E. Taylor
Archivist



THE MARINE'S PRAYER

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.

Amen

FLAG OFFICERS
OF THE
U.S.NAVY CHAPLAIN CORPS
(CHIEFS OF CHAPLAINS)
06-21-01

1937	WORKMAN, ROBERT	(PresbyUSA)
1945	THOMAS, WILLIAM	(Meth)
1949	SALISBURY, STANFORD	(Presby USA)
1950	HARP, EDWARD	(Ref)
1958	ROSSO, GEORGE	(Cath)
1963	DREITH, JOSEPH	(Luth)
1964	KELLY, JAMES	(Bapt)
1970	GARRETT, FRANCIS	(Meth)
1975	O'CONNER, JOHN	(Cath)
1979	TROWER, ROSS	(Luth)
1983	STEVENSON, NEIL	(PresbyUSA)
1984	Mc NAMARA, JOHN	(Cath)
1988	KOENEMAN, ALVIN	(ALC)
1991	WHITE, DAVID	(RCA)
1994	MUCHOW, DONALD	(Luth)
1997	HOLDERBY, BYRON	(ELCA)
2000	BLACK, BARRY	(SDA)
2002	IASIELLO, LOUIS	(Cath)

FLAG OFFICERS
OF THE
U.S.NAVAL CHAPLAIN CORPS
(NON- C of C)
(RR=RESERVE NAVY)
(N=REGULAR NAVY)

1972	TINDALL, RAY	RR	(Bapt)
1972	ROTRIGE, HENRY	N	(Cath)
1974	HUTCHESON, RICHARD	N	(UP)
1975	THOMPSON, MARK	RR	(UP)
1980	MOORE, WITHERS	N	(Meth)
1986	KUHN, GERALD	RR	(Luth)
1987	HEVER, JOHN	RR	(Cath)
1988	FLOYD, EMMETT	RR	(UCC)
1989	LANDES, AARON	RR	(Jewish)
1994	STEWART, WILLIAM	RR	(PresbyUSA)
1996	WILL, WILLIAM	RR	(Meth)
1999	BECKWITH, PETER	RR	(Episc)
2000	BIGGER, DAROLD	RR	(SDA)

They Are There

It has never mattered to them
The separation of church and state
For when their country calls
They Are There

For when military men and
women
Serving their government
Need a prayer and loving care
They Are There

When a soldier in a field of mud
Felled by battle's war
Cries for comfort
They Are There

A nurse in desperation
For the never ending wounded
Laments, but not alone for
They Are There

A sailor at sea
Without a letter from home
Wondering if someone cares
They Are There

A wife with husband gone
Waiting for the birth
Of a child, their first
They Are There

At the opening of Congress
In a galley or a mess
During baptisms, confirmations
Re-dedications and retirements
Weddings, Barmitzvahs
Memorial services and funerals
They Are There

They are a shoulder to lean on
They are a shoulder to cry on
They are a hand to hold
They are a warm heart to the cold

They are our Chaplains

They Are There

They are always there

"FAIR WINDS" AND "FOLLOWING SEAS"

There is no precise origin for their two phrases joint usage. The joint usage as a "nautical blessing" quote has evolved over at least the last one hundred years and probably more.

It really is two quotes originated from different sources. THE TWO QUOTES ARE A NAUTICAL PHRASE OF GOOD LUCK, A BLESSING AS IT WERE, AS THE PERSON, GROUP OR THING IT IS SAID TO DEPARTS ON "IT'S VOYAGE IN LIFE". IF ONE EXAMINES THE QUOTES USAGE, IT IS ALWAYS USED AT A "BEGINNING" CEREMONY SUCH AS A COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF A SHIP OR PEOPLE. YOU NEVER SEE IT AT THE "END" OF SOMETHING SUCH AS A "DECOMMISSIONING" CEREMONY.

First, "Fair Winds": "The Dictionary of American Regional English" defines "Fair Wind" as "safe journey; good fortune." An early example of the phrases use is in Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" published in 1851 where it says near the end "Let me square the yards, while we may, old man, and make a fair wind of it homeward." Another words, let me square the yards (add on all sail) and make a safe journey home.

"Following Seas": Defined by Bowditch's "American Practical Navigator" as "A sea in which the waves move in the general direction of the heading." It goes on to define "Tide" as "the periodic rise and fall of the water resulting from gravitational interactions between the sun, moon, and earth....the accompanying horizontal movement of the water is part of the same phenomenon." In simple term, what the above says is that the movement of the water, the waves, on the surface, corresponds with the movement of the tide.

You have heard of the term "sailing with the tide". In the days of sailing, a ship has to "sail with the tide" as the easiest way for it to set sail out of the harbor. Hence, when the tide was going out, so were the wave motion, hence the term "following seas." Trying to get out of the harbor, going against the tide, especially a strong tide, was extremely hard. "Sailing with the tide", with the current and waves pushing you on to the harbor entrance was the easiest way to get out to sea. A planes "tail wind" is a similar comparison.

To conclude, the term "Fair winds" and "following seas" basically says "Have a safe journey as you proceed out of harbor into the beginning of your voyage in life." This can be said to both people and ships and as I have said previously is meant to be a "nautical blessing". AGAIN, THERE IS NO SPECIFIC ORIGIN OF THE PHRASE "FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS."

A PRAYER FOUND IN
CHESTER CATHEDRAL, ENGLAND

GIVE me a good digestion, Lord,
And also something to digest;
Give me a healthy body, Lord,
With sense to keep it at its best;
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord,
To keep the good and pure in sight,
Which seeing sin is not appalled
But finds a way to set it right;
Give me a mind that is not bored,
That does not whimper, whine or sigh;
Don't let me worry overmuch
About the fussy thing called I.
Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life
And pass it on to other folk . . . *Amen.*

Anonymous

PRAYER BY THE PRESIDENT

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Book of Common Prayer

Prayer made before the nation by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States

FROM GENERAL EISENHOWER*

ALMIGHTY God, we are about to be committed to a task from which some of us will not return. We go willingly to this hazardous adventure because we believe that those concepts of human dignity, rights and justice that Your Son expounded to the world, and which are respected in the government of our beloved country, are in peril of extinction from the earth. We are ready to sacrifice ourselves for our country and our God. We do not ask, individually, for our safe return. But we earnestly pray that You will help each of us to do his full duty. Permit none of us to fail a comrade in the fight. Above all, sustain us in our conviction in the justice and righteousness of our cause so that we may rise above all terror of the enemy and come to You, if called, in the humble pride of the good soldier and in the certainty of Your infinite mercy. *Amen.*

General Dwight D. Eisenhower

United States Army

Supreme Commander of American-British Forces in Europe

"A prayer that I once heard a company commander repeating to his men, on a wet, cold night, just before starting a march to the front line, struck me more forcibly than almost any other I have heard. Possibly the drama of the occasion had something to do with my reactions, but in any event, it was a better prayer than I could compose. While I cannot repeat it verbatim, I am sending it to you in words that approximate the original."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME

(THE SAILOR'S HYMN)



“He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’” Mark 4:39

Words: Edward Hopper, in *The Sailor's Magazine* (1871) and *The Baptist Praise Book* (1871). The nautical theme reflects Hopper's ministry at the Church of the Sea and Land in New York City, where he came in contact with sailors from around the world.

Music: “Pilot,” John Edgar Gould, 1871 (MIDI, score).

If you know where to find a picture of Edward Hopper or John Gould, please [click here](#).

Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treacherous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee; Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

While the Apostles' fragile bark struggled with the billows dark,
On the stormy Galilee, Thou didst walk upon the sea;
And when they beheld Thy form, safe they glided through the storm.

Though the sea be smooth and bright, sparkling with the stars of night,
And my ship's path be ablaze with the light of halcyon days,
Still I know my need of Thee; Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When the darkling heavens frown, and the wrathful winds come down,
And the fierce waves, tossed on high, lash themselves against the sky,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me, over life's tempestuous sea.

As a mother stills her child, Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boisterous waves obey Thy will, when Thou sayest to them, “Be still!”
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest, then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me, “Fear not, I will pilot thee.”



A Prayer for the Armed Forces

LORD GOD OF HOSTS, whose power is from everlasting to everlasting, and whose Name is above every name in heaven and earth: keep, we pray Thee, under thy protecting care the Armed Forces of our country and all who serve therein. Defend them amid violence on land or sea or in the heavens, and grant that they may be a sure defense and a safeguard for the people of the United States and a security for such as come and go in peaceful and lawful pursuit. In time of peace keep them from evil, and in the day of conflict suffer not their courage to fail: that they may guard the American heritage against those who would destroy or straiten the liberties of government by the people, and to the end that the blessings of religion and law may be preserved to posterity. Amen.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH PENNANT (FLAG)

Every now and then I receive requests for information concerning the "church flag". This object that they are referring to is neither a flag nor a pennant of any church.

It is a naval signal pennant, listed in the Naval Signal Book. It is flown only during Christian/Judea worship service, both at sea and ashore.

Over the years there has been considerable confusion over the shape and color of the pennant and the style and color of the cross. It has always been a triangle and white, never swallow tailed. The proportions are three feet high at the staff edge. The length is eight feet, nine inches. Bars of the Latin cross is six inches broad. The short bar is eighteen inches long and parallel to the three foot edge and the long bar is thirty-six inches long, projecting six inches above the short bar. The head of the cross is six inches from the three foot edge. The Latin cross is navy blue.

There is some evidence that the cross was Greek, but between 1851 and 1869, it became a Latin cross and still is.

Periodically the church pennant is mentioned in ships' deck logs as far back as 1822, "General Orders" mentions worship flag being raised during religious service and referred to it as a flag for all churches. It also is the earliest to note that the church pennant was to be flown above the national flag on the same host. This use is interpreted as true patriotism and to our loyalty to God.

In 1861 Admiral David C. Farragut, in 1869 the Signal Code Book, and in 1872 Admiral Preble's Book of Flags all affirm these instructions.

At 1400, 20 October 1976, aboard the USS GUAM, (LPH-9), the Jewish worship pennant was hoisted for the first time at Norfolk Naval Station. The address was given by RADM John J.

O'Connor representing the SECNAV. The pennant is the same size and a white field with the Tablets of the Law and the Star of David in navy blue.

There is ample evidence that Navies of the Old World had used a worship flag or pennant.

THE OLD SAGE

Ann: I have plenty of photos to choose from.

THE SHIELD OF OUR SALVATION

ETERNAL God, the God of our fathers and our God, the rock of our life, and the shield of our salvation: thou art he who existeth to all ages. We therefore give thanks unto thee and declare thy praise, for our lives which are delivered into thy hand; for thy goodness which is displayed to us daily; for thy wonders and thy bounty which are at all times given to us. Thou art the most gracious, for thy mercies never fail; thou art the most compassionate, for thy kindnesses never cease. Evermore do we hope in thee, O Lord our God.

Jewish Book of Services

A PRAYER FOR HER

LORD, give her strength when she is weak
And peace when troubled is her heart;
Lord, send her hope when hope is gone,
And courage when her battles start.
There's only one thing more I ask—
You'll understand I know, so please,
Lord, bless her while she waits alone,
And give her faith for times like these . . . *Amen.*

Dorothy M. Ballenger

A Navy Wife

Her husband is Earl L. Ballenger,
Boatswain's Mate First Class,
United States Navy

"You may be interested to know that this prayer was written one evening as I sat here alone (with our four-year-old lad) and visioned the things my husband would ask God to do for me while I wait for him, and pray for him, and love him. I sincerely believe he is not alone in this wish, as thousands of other Service Men must feel the same way."

D. M. B.

A CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER—1777

I KNOW you are strong in the might of the Lord. You will go forth to battle on the morrow with light hearts and determined spirits, though the solemn duty may rest heavy on your souls.

And, in the hour of battle, when all around is darkness, lit by the lurid cannon glare and the piercing musket flash—when the wounded strew the ground, the dead litter your path—then remember, soldiers, that God is with you. The eternal God fights for you. He rides on the battle cloud, He sweeps onward with the march of the hurricane charge—God, the Awful and Infinite, fights for you, and you will triumph . . .

Great Father, we bow before Thee. We invoke thy blessing, we deprecate thy wrath, we return Thee thanks for the past, we ask thy aid for the future. O God of mercy, we pray thy blessing on the American arms. God prosper the cause. *Amen.*

Joab Prout

Chaplain of the Continental Army,
before the Battle of Brandywine

FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
OF THE UNITED STATES
FLEET

O GOD, we pray Thee that the memory of our comrades fallen in battle may be ever sacred in our hearts; that the sacrifice which they have offered for our country's cause may be acceptable in Thy sight; and that an entrance into Thine eternal peace may, by Thy pardoning grace, be open unto them through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

Contributed to this volume as his favorite prayer
by

Admiral Ernest J. King

Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet
and Chief of Naval Operations

Two Bell Ceremony

["Eternal Father" played very low at the beginning of the ceremony.]

<i>The toll of the ship's bell.</i>	<i>XX*</i>
<i>Reminds us of the reverence.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>We owe to our departed shipmates.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>And to those who guard the honor.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>Of our country.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>Upon the seas.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>Under the seas.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>In the air.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>And upon foreign soil.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>Let us who gather here.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>Not forget our obligation.</i>	<i>XX</i>

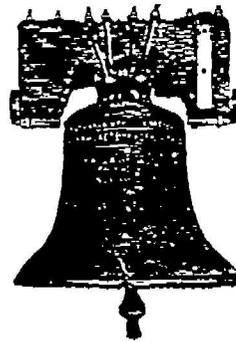
[Stop playing "Eternal Father."]

<i>And in silence [delay while taps is played, lights off, spotlight on the bell only.]</i>	<i>XX</i>
---	-----------

[Lights on.]

<i>Breathe a prayer.</i>	<i>XX</i>
<i>For our absent shipmates.</i>	<i>XX</i>

Note: XX indicates that the bell is rung twice.*



PRAYER AT THE FIFTH MARINE DIVISION CEMETERY

IWO JIMA

26 March 1945

by

Roland Gittelsohn
Chaplain, U.S. Navy

This is perhaps the grimmest, and surely the holiest task we have faced since D-Day. Here before us lie the bodies of comrades and friends. Men who until yesterday or last week laughed with us, joked with us, trained with us. Men who were on the same ships with us, and went over the sides with us as we prepared to hit the beaches of this island. Men who fought with us and feared with us.

Somewhere in this plot of ground there may lie the man who could have discovered the cure for cancer. Under one of these Christian crosses, or beneath a Jewish Star of David, there may rest now a man who was destined to be a great prophet . . . to find the way, perhaps, for all to live in plenty, with poverty and hardship for none. Now they lie here silently in this sacred soil, and we gather to consecrate this earth in their memory.

It is not easy to do so. Some of us have buried our closest friends here. We saw these men killed before our very eyes. Any one of us might have died in their places. Indeed, some of us are alive and breathing at this very moment only because men who lie here beneath us had the courage and strength to give their lives for ours. To speak in memory of such men as these is not easy. Of them, too, can it be said with utter truth: 'The world will little note nor long remember what we say here. It can never forget what they did here.'

No, our poor power of speech can add nothing to what these men and the other dead of our division who are not here have already done. All that we can even hope to do is follow their example. To show the same selfless courage in peace that they did in war. To swear that, by the grace of God and the stubborn strength and power of human will, their sons and ours shall never suffer these pains again. These men have done their job well. They have paid the ghastly price of freedom. If that freedom be once again lost, as it was after the last war, the unforgivable blame will be ours, not theirs. So it is we, the living, who are here to be dedicated and consecrated.

We dedicate ourselves, first, to live together in peace the way they fought and are buried here in war. Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding, and other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, Negroes and whites, rich men and poor. . . together. Here are Protestants, Catholics, and Jews . . . together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed.

Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudice. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy.

Any man among us, the living, who fails to understand that will thereby betray those who lie here dead. Whoever of us lifts his hand in hate against a brother, or thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, makes of this ceremony and of the bloody sacrifice it commemorates, an empty, hollow mockery. To this, then, as our solemn, sacred duty, do we the living now dedicate ourselves: to the right of Protestants, Catholics, and Jews, of white men and Negroes alike, to enjoy the democracy for which all of them have here paid the price.

To one thing more do we consecrate ourselves in memory of those who sleep beneath these crosses and stars. We shall not foolishly suppose, as did the last generation of America's fighting men, that victory on the battlefield will automatically guarantee the triumph of democracy at home. This war, with all its frightful heartache and suffering, is but the beginning of our generation's struggle for democracy. When the last battle has been won, there will be those at home, as there were last time, who will want us to turn our backs in selfish isolation on the rest of organized humanity, and thus to sabotage the very peace for which we fight. We promise you who lie here: we will not do that! We will join hands with Britain, China, Russia--in peace, even as we have in war--to build the kind of world for which you died.

When the last shot has been fired, there will still be those whose eyes are turned backward, not forward, who will be satisfied with those wide extremes of poverty and wealth in which the seeds of another war can breed. We promise you, our departed comrades: This too we will not permit. This war has been fought by the common man; its fruits of peace must be enjoyed by the common man! We promise, by all that is sacred and holy, that your sons--the sons of miners and millers, the sons of farmers and workers, will inherit from your death the right to a living that is decent and secure.

When the final cross has been placed in the last cemetery, once again there will be those to whom profit is more important than peace, who will insist with the voice of sweet reasonableness and appeasement that it is better to trade with the enemies of mankind than, by crushing them, to lose their profit. To you who sleep here silently, we give our promise: We will not listen! We will not forget that some of you were burnt with oil that came from American wells, that many of you were killed by shells fashioned from American steel. We promise that when once again men seek profit at your expense, we shall remember how you looked when we placed you reverently, lovingly, in the ground.

Thus do we memorialize those who, having ceased living with us, now live within us. Thus do we consecrate ourselves, the living, to carry on the struggle they began. Too much blood has gone into this soil for us to let it lie barren. Too much pain and heartache have fertilized the earth on which we stand. We here solemnly swear: this shall not be in vain! Out of this, and from the suffering and sorrow of those who mourn this, will come--we promise--the birth of a new freedom for the sons of men everywhere. Amen.

Untitled

[Song of the Valkyries]

by Anonymous

(Found in the wreckage of a WWII Marine Corps fighter that was shot down over New Ireland)



I have skimmed the ragged edge of lightning death
And torn from bloody flesh of sky a thunder song.
Across the nakedness of virgin space
I've blistered my frozen hand in feathered ice
And dared angelic wrath to smash
The snarling will of my demon steed

Far above sun-glint on winded spume
High executioner of laws no man has made,
I've welded *Samurai knights* into fiery tombs
And hurled them down like the plumed Minoan
Far down the searing heights to punch
Their livid crates in the sea.

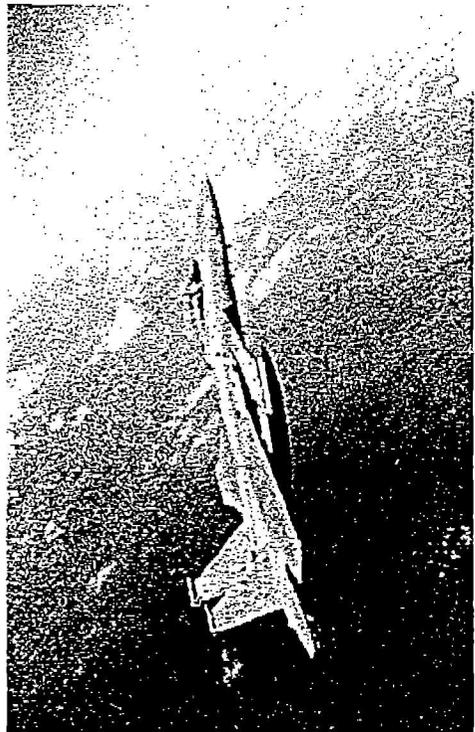
"Enemies", you say. They were not mine.
More than blood brothers, I swear,
With tawny skin and warrior eye.
Bushido-bred for hell-strife joy.
Much closer my kin, my race than those
Who cud-chew their lives can ever be.

"War-lover", you say, "Sadist, psychotic"
That sick cycle of canned clichis masking
Your lust for eternity fettered to time.
Go, epigonic pygmies, make peace with hell,
Drag the myths of our ancient might
Through the miserable muck of a cringer's dream.

What could you know
Who have never heard
The *soaring song of the Valkyries*,
Felt thunder-gods jousting with livid peaks:
You who have never dared to walk the razor
Across the zenith of your peevish soul?

High Flight

by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.



Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds -- and done a hundred things

You have not dreamed of -- *wheeled* and *soared* and
swung High in the sunlit silence.

Hov'ring there,

I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark,
or even eagle flew.

And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and *touched* the face of God.

War Stories!

Return to [Sky Pilot Poetry](#)

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War Stories!

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Sky Pilot by The Animals

He blesses the boys, as they stand in line
 The smell of gun grease and their bayonets they shine
 He's there to help them all that he can
 To make them feel wanted he's a good holy man

Sky Pilot
 Sky Pilot
 How how can you fly?
 You'll never, never, never, reach the sky

He smiles at the young soldiers, tells them it's all right
 He knows of their fear in the forthcoming fight
 Soon there'll be blood and many will die
 Mothers and fathers back home they will cry

Sky Pilot
 Sky Pilot
 How how can you fly?
 You'll never, never, never, reach the sky

He mumbles a prayer and it ends with a smile
 The order is given, they move down the line
 But he'll stay behind, and he'll meditate
 But it won't stop the bleeding, or ease the hate

As the young men move out into the battle zone
 He feels good, with God you're never alone
 He feels so tired as he lays on his bed
 Hopes the men will find courage in the words that he said

Sky Pilot
 Sky Pilot
 How how can you fly?
 You'll never, never, never, reach the sky

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Creation Date: *Thursday, June 13, 1996*

Last Modified: *Thursday, June 13, 1996*

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Sky Pilot

Eric Burdon, Vic Briggs, John Weider, Barry Jenkins, Danny McCulloch
Eric Burdon and the Animals, February 1968.

He blesses the boys
As they stand in line
The smell of gun grease
And their bayonets they shine.

He's there to help them
All that he can
To make them feel wanted
He's a good holy man.

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But it won't stop the bleeding
Or ease the hate.

As the young men move out
Into the battle zone
He feels good -
With God you're never alone.

NAVY CHAPLAINS AND THEIR SHIPS

CHAPLAINS	DENOM	SHIP/UNIT	KIA	SHIP'S NAME	CLASS	DATE ACTION	DATE COMMISSION
SAMUEL LIVERMORE	(7)	USS KEARSARGE (FRIGATE)	NO	USS LIVERMORE (DD-429)	GREAVES	1 JUN 1813	7 OCT 40
JOHN LENHART	METH	USS CUMBERLAND (FRIGATE)	YES (1ST)	NONE		8 MAR 1862	NONE
JOHN D. FRAIZER (1ST CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS)	METH	USS OLYMPIA (C-6)	NO	NONE		18 JUL 1898	NONE
EDWARD A DUFF (5TH CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS)	RC	USS OLYMPIA (C-6)	NO	NONE		OCT 21	NONE
THOMAS L. KIRKPATRICK	PUSA	USS ARIZONA (BB-39)	YES	USS KIRKPATRICK (DE-318)	EDSALL	7 DEC 41	5 JUN 43
ALOYSIUS H. SCHMITT	RC	USS OKLAHOMA (BB-37)	YES	USS SCHMITT (DE-676)	BUCKLEY	7 DEC 41	24 JUL 43
GEORGE S. RENIZ	PUSA	USS HOUSTON (CA-30)	YES	USS RENIZ (FG-46)	FERRY	27 FEB 42	23 JUN 84
JOHN J. MCGARRITY	RC	USS LANGLEY (AV-3)	YES	NONE		28 FEB 42	NONE
EUGENE R. SHANNON	EPISC	USS DISMARCK SEA (CVE-93)	YES	NONE		21 FEB 43	NONE
JOSEPH T. O'CALLAHAN (1ST MOH)	RC	USS FRANKLIN (CV-13)	NO	USS O'CALLAHAN (DE-1051)	GARCIA	19 MAR 43	7 DEC 68
FIDELIS M. WIELAND	RC	USS COMFORT (AH-6)	YES	NONE		2 MAY 43	NONE
JOSEPH J. KODEL	RC	USS CURTISS (AV-4)	YES	NONE		21 JUN 43	NONE
THOMAS M. CONWAY	RC	USS INDIANA POLIS (CA-33)	YES	NONE		30 JUN 43	NONE
FRANCIS J. MCKIANUS	RC	USS CANOPUS (AS-9)	YES	NONE		30 JAN 43	NONE
FLOYDE WITHROW	UP	USS MISSISSIPPI (BB-41)	YES	NONE		21 JUN 43	NONE
ROLAND FAULK	METH	USS MISSOURI (BB-63)	NO	NONE		9 FEB 43	NONE
VINCENT R. CAPODANNO (2ND MOH)	RC	1ST MARINE DIVISION	YES	CAPODANNO (DE-1093)	KNOX	2 SEP 67	17 NOV 92
JOHN T. LABOON	RC	FORMER LINE OFFICER, WWII, SUBS SILVER STAR	NO	USS LABOON (DDG-58)	BURKE	30 YEARS SERVICE	18 MAR 93

COMPILED BY W. E. TAYLOR/CHAPLAIN CORPS ARCHIVIST

PRESENT WHEN COMMODORE DEWEY ORDERED CAPT. GRIDLEY TO FIRE WHEN READY AT THE MANILA BATTLE. HE WAS SELECTED THE 1ST CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS. CHOSEN AS THE USS OLYMPIA'S 1ST CHAPLAIN, 1ST CRUISE THIS SHIP. ATTENDED SERVICE FOR 1ST UNKNOWN SOLDIER FROM WWI AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

RETURNED WWI'S UNKNOWN SOLDIER REMAINS TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY. LAST CHAPLAIN STATIONED ON BOARD THE USS OLYMPIA, LAST CRUISE THIS SHIP BECAME THE 5TH CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS.

PRESENT AT JAPANESE SURRENDER, ALSO GAVE PEACE PRAYER.

A Concise History of the Chaplain Corps

The history of the Chaplain Corps traces its beginnings to 28 November 1775 when the second article of Navy Regulations was adopted. It stated that "the Commanders of the ships of the thirteen United Colonies are to take care that divine services be performed twice a day on board and a sermon preached on Sundays, unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent." Although chaplains were not specifically mentioned in this article, one can imply that Congress intended that an ordained clergyman be part of ship's company. Later documents support that conclusion.

Reverend Benjamin Balch was the first chaplain known to have served in the Continental Navy, reporting aboard the frigate *Boston* in October 1778. The number of chaplains by the turn of the century only totaled six, and at that, only two were retained.

A new edition of Naval Regulations dated 25 January 1802 included reference to the duties of a chaplain. "He is to read prayers at stated periods; perform all funeral ceremonies; perform the duty of a schoolmaster instructing the midshipmen and volunteers in writing, arithmetic, navigation and whatever else they might need to make them proficient; and teach the other youths of the ship as the captain orders."

Because of their teaching skills, when various "academies" were established aboard the ships in central ports, the chaplains were called on to be the administrators. Their involvement in these early learning institutions prompted Chaplain George Jones to begin his campaign for the Naval Academy in 1839. The establishment of the Naval School at Annapolis (later the United States Naval Academy) in 1845 was due primarily to Chaplain Jones' efforts.

By October 1906, the Chaplain Corps began to come into its own. Steering away from the teaching function, a board of chaplains appointed by the Secretary of the Navy established guidelines which would require that all newly commissioned chaplains be graduates of both college and seminary and that such should receive the endorsement of their denominations; and that all candidates appear before a board of Navy chaplains for their endorsement as to health and other qualifications. They also recommended that there should be a Chief of Chaplains. The board's recommendations gave birth to the Chaplain Corps as it is known today.

To recount the history of the Chaplain Corps and omit two of its most revered chaplains would be a grave mistake. The bravery of Chaplains Joseph T. O'Callahan and Vincent Capodanno gives credence to the faith by which we stand. Both were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their remarkable willingness to perform their duties in the face of the fiercest adversities. Their spirit is present in the daily contributions the men and women of Chaplain Corps continue to make to the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard today.

Lieutenant Margaret G. Kibben, CHC, USNR
History Projects Officer, Chaplain Resource Board

Washington's Prayer for the Nation

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection, that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

Grant our supplications, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Written at Newburg, June 8, 1783, and sent to the Governors of all the States.*)

Burial of the Dead

337

¶ It is to be noted that this Office is appropriate to be used only for the faithful departed in Christ, provided that in any other case the Minister may, at his discretion, use such part of this Office, or such devotions taken from other parts of this Book, as may be fitting.

At the Burial of the Dead at Sea.

¶ The same Office may be used; but instead of the Sentence of Committal, the Minister shall say,

UNTO Almighty God we commend the soul of our brother departed, and we commit *his* body to the deep; in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection unto eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the sea shall give up her dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed, and made like unto his glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

For Independence Day

Almighty and everlasting God, Thou who hast given us this great Nation, make us aware of all the solemn responsibilities which we face in defending our great heritage of freedom. Keep us from shirking our duties for "we are now testing whether this nation or any other nation so conceived and dedicated, can long endure." Without a real dependence in Thee we will surely fail. Bless all our people with good manners, brotherly love, and a peaceful unity that we may strengthen the foundations of the people's republic. Enable our President, and those in political authority to do their work with wisdom and justice. In the time of trial, be Thou our Protector and Defender. Amen.

On Mother's Day

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the ties of affection that bind us to our homes. On this day we pray for our mothers. We are grateful for their care, love, and concern. We remember their first prayers, their patience when we were ill and sore of heart. They showed us the reality of selfless love. May we not remember our mothers with tearful sentiment or with a remorseful conscience but with a joy and a willful determination to love and to honor them with honesty and clean living. Amen.

On Good Friday

Almighty God, have mercy on us, for we see in ourselves the same traits which crucified Thy son on that hill of Calvary. Forgive and remake us that we may always stand for right and absolute goodness. We thank Thee that our Lord loved us even unto the end and has pardoned our sins with His own precious blood. May we take up our cross and follow in His steps that we may arise to newness of life with Him forever and ever. Amen.

For Thanksgiving Day

Almighty and most merciful Father, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; we give Thee hearty thanks for all Thy goodness unto us. Thou hast filled the sea and land with plenty that no man should go hungry. Help us to share Thy gifts with others. On this day, of all days, we would not forget to offer our gratitude. Amen.

For New Year's Day

O Thou who art from everlasting to everlasting, in whose sight a thousand years are but as a day, replenish us with Thy spirit, that we may take hope as we face this New Year. Thou art merciful and will forgive seventy times seven. Thou hast given us a new log. Help us to make such entries from day to day which will be pleasing in Thy sight. Suffer not the coming days to separate us from Thee. Amen.

Armed Forces Day Prayer

O God of all mankind, bless our comrades who are now scattered to the four corners of the world as they perform their duties on land, on the sea and in the air. Enable us to keep our land strong not only in steel and nuclear power, but in character, high ideals and fair play. Let us exalt duties above rights and may America always have beneath the scabbard, the garments of the Good Samaritan, finding her rightful role in dressing the wounds of the fallen. Bless the President of the United States and give him wisdom and strength in his work. Give us all faith to look for what could be if we were right with Thee. Amen.

For All Seafarers

“We pray to thee, O God our heavenly Father, for all seafarers and for those who serve their needs: for the officers and men of the Navy and the Merchant Marine; for the keepers of lighthouses and the pilots of our ports; for those who man lifeboats and guard our coasts; for the men of the fishing-fleets and those who carry out the services of docks and harbours; and for all guilds and societies which care for the well-being of sailors and their families. Bless them according to their several necessities, and keep them in all dangers and temptations. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

A Commissioning Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly beseech Thee to bless us with Thy spirit as we gather to commission this vessel of the United States Navy. Endue us with such loyalty and devotion that we will not lose faith with the glorious heritage of freedom which has been handed down to us by sacrificial patriots. Keep us from finding our security in arms alone but in the conviction that right makes might. Bless the officers and crew of this ship, giving us fidelity in all our tasks. Create and maintain among us cheerfulness and a good ship's spirit. We would not forget to remember our families. Watch over them during our days of separation. Grant fair weather in all our voyages, if it be Thy Holy Will, but if dangers confront us in the midst of the sea, be Thou our strong tower of defense. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and the violence of the enemy. Make us strong in the fear of God and the love of righteousness that we may quit ourselves like men in the support of the high ideals upon which our nation was founded. This we pray to Almighty God, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Amen.

A Wartime Prayer

O God, our help in ages past, our hope today and tomorrow, we approach Thee in deep humility at this hour of tragic crisis. Forgive us, if we have contributed to the cause of this war in which Thy children are engaged. Protect the women, the children and the innocent. So fill our hearts with trust in Thee, that in peace and war we may commit our loved ones and ourselves to Thy never-failing care. Let not the powers of the darkness and of terror keep us from doing our duty as free men. Help us to fight on till all strife and oppression cease and the peoples of the world be delivered from bondage and fear. Give us victory, O God, if it be Thy will, but above all give us the knowledge that we are fighting for values that are right and everlasting. Amen.

The Submariner's Prayer

Almighty, Everlasting God, the Protector of all those who put their trust in Thee: hear our prayers in behalf of Thy servants who sail their vessels beneath the seas. We beseech Thee to keep in Thy sustaining care all who are in submarines, that they may be delivered from the hidden dangers of the deep. Grant them courage, and a devotion to fulfill their duties, that they may better serve Thee and their native land. Though acquainted with the depths of the ocean, deliver them from the depths of despair and the dark hours of the absence of friendliness and a good ship's spirit. Bless all their kindred and loved ones from whom they are separated. When they surface their ships, may they praise Thee for Thou art there as well as in the deep. Fill them with Thy Spirit that they may be sure in their reckonings, unwavering in duty, high in purpose, and upholding the honor of their nation. Amen.

A Coast Guard Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God, Whose hand stills the tumult of the deep, we offer our prayers for those who serve in our Coast Guard. We are mindful of their traditions of selfless service to the seafarers who make their ways to appointed ports. Employ their devotions to good ends as they track the weather and search the seas for those in extremity of storm, shipwreck or battle. Make their soundings and markings sure that safe passages may be found by those who go down to the sea in ships. Encourage them, O Lord, as they stand guard over our coasts and the bulwarks of our freedoms. Graciously deliver them from threatening calamities in all their perilous voyages. Bless the keepers of the lights and be Thou their close friend in lonely watches. Keep the beacons of honor and duty burning that they may reach the home port with duty well performed, in service to Thee and our land. Amen.

A Prayer for the Army

“Lord God of Hosts, whose power is from everlasting to everlasting, and whose Name is above every name in heaven and earth: keep, we pray Thee, under Thy protecting care the Army of our country and all who serve therein. Defend them amid violence on land or sea or in the heavens, and grant that they may be a sure defense and a safeguard for the people of the United States and a security for such as come and go in peaceful and lawful pursuit. In time of peace keep them from evil, and in the day of conflict suffer not their courage to fail: that they may guard the American heritage against those who would destroy or straiten the liberties of government by the people, and to the end that the blessings of religion and law may be preserved to posterity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

The Prayer of a Midshipman

“Almighty Father, whose way is in the sea and whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over all and whose love never faileth: Let me be aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and in deed, and helping me so to live that I can stand unashamed and unafraid before my shipmates, my loved ones, and Thee. Protect those in whose love I live. Give me the will to do the work of a man and to accept my share of responsibilities with a strong heart and a cheerful mind. Make me considerate of those intrusted to my leadership and faithful to the duties my country has intrusted to me. Let my uniform remind me daily of the traditions of the Service of which I am a part. If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and keep before me the life of Him by whose example and help I trust to obtain the answer to my prayer, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

For the Sick

O God, who art always mindful of the sick and the discouraged, bless our comrades who are ill in the sick bay. Gladden their hearts with the sense of Thy mercy and deliver them from all worries and anxieties. Grant that they may endure suffering with holy patience, looking up to Thee. May calm fortitude take root and grow in the soil of their trouble. Amen.

For Our Married Men

We invoke Thy blessings upon the married men of our ship, O Lord. As the night draws on we know that their thoughts and prayers turn toward their homes. Make them loyal husbands and good fathers. We are grateful for the Navy wives who often sail the seas with their loved ones in their dreams and thoughts. Keep them true to their loyalties and grant them happiness in their married life. Amen.

For Our Medical Officers and Corpsmen

Almighty God, whose blessed son Jesus Christ went about healing, we beseech Thee to look with favor upon the medical officers and corpsmen of this ship. Grant to them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience that they may heal all our shipmates. Bless all those who are dedicated to the task of helping others. Amen.

For Our Chaplains

We pray for the Chaplains of the Navy. Bestow upon them Thy holy blessings. May we encourage them in their sacred work by attendance at Divine Services. We thank Thee that our country has deemed it wise to send these Men of God to sea in ships to stand beside us in time of need. Give them their right reward by making us better men. Amen.

For Our Executive Officer

Our Father, we hold up before Thee in the arms of prayer, the Executive Officer of this ship. Guide him along paths of usefulness and fill him with wisdom for his duties. Forgive us, O God, for adding to his work by being careless with our duties. We surrender our wills to Thee knowing that Thou wilt multiply our powers to accomplish good ends. Amen.

A Benediction

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace in our going out and our coming in, in our lying down and our rising up, in our joys and in our sorrows, in our hopes and in our disappointments, until we have crossed that final bar, meeting our Pilot face to face, for then we shall find rest from our labors. Amen.

For Our Commanding Officer

Eternal God, we beseech Thee to bless our Commanding Officer. Help us to realize the great responsibilities which are placed upon him by those in higher authority. We would add to the gifts of Thy blessings, our loyalty, our industry, and our best that we may bring credit to his command. Watch over his family. Bring us all to our desired port with a good ship's spirit. Amen.

On Christmas Day

O God, who didst make Thy entry into our world in the form of the Christ child, we would look up to Thee with joy and thanksgiving. Thou gavest the first Christmas gift in the offering of Thy son, Jesus Christ, that no man should perish but that all should have everlasting life. Help us to celebrate this day, the birthday of our Savior, with goodwill to all men. Though we cannot be with our families, we pray that Thy spirit may be in all our hearts giving us a good Christmas Day. Amen.

For Our President

Almighty and everlasting God, look with favor upon the work of our President, even our own commander-in-chief. May he always seek Thy honor and glory that he may lead us in all good things. Bless with wisdom, guidance, and understanding all those who are with political leadership and authority that our nation may be strong in morals and sound in manners. Amen.

Washington's Prayer for the Nation

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection, that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

Grant our supplications, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Written at Newburg, June 8, 1783, and sent to the Governors of all the States.*)