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

1730 IN REPLY REFER TO
Ser N097/02217
02 Aug 02

Dear Colleagues:

I just returned from Chaplain Stanley Sinclair Burley's funeral, amazed that sadness and celebration can commingle with such power at a service. Stanley, a Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve, graduated from Harvard Divinity School and entered active duty on 04 November 1992. He left active duty on 15 June 2001, but continued ministry with the Naval Reserve. He died on July 25th and will be greatly missed. His funeral, held at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland, enabled many through music, prayers, scripture, and sermon, to worship God and acknowledged that "weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." Stanley's love for the Navy could be seen in the fact that he was buried in Full Dress White.

Chaplain Alan Keiran and I visited Stan a few weeks before his death and were impressed with two things. First, we were refreshed by the faith of Ruth, Stan's wife, and her total devotion to his welfare. Ruth is a prayer warrior and one who believes that God's loving providence sometimes takes us through valleys. Second, Al and I were inspired by Stan's faith. We came to encourage him, but left feeling we had received far more inspiration than we had given. Stan spoke of His confidence in God's healing power. He was totally convinced that God could miraculously restore him to health. But Stan's faith possessed a "But if not" maturity. If God chose a different route, Stan would joyfully submit to God's sovereign will. We prayed together, and we left believing this would not be our last meeting.

I have not seen the last of Stan Burley. One of the New Testament lessons at the funeral was Revelation 21:1-7. This Bible passage speaks of a new heaven and a new earth, where friends will not be separated and death will be destroyed. It will be a time when we will need no moon to rule the night or sun to shine by day, for God will be our light. I look forward to that day.

Stan was a first round draft pick. I first met him in 1992 and can still see his infectious smile. He possessed an ebullient

optimism that even reframed the ill intentions of detractors. He enjoyed discussing the Bible and loved talking about sermon ideas. He fervently loved his wife Ruth and his daughter Rachel. We never left each other without first pausing for prayer. He will be missed.

Sincerely,

BARRY C. BLACK
Rear Admiral, CHC, U.S. Navy
Chief of Chaplains