



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

IN REPLY REFER TO
1730
Ser N097/02057
15 Feb 02

Dear Colleagues,

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this past week, Navy chaplains stood in the U. S. Senate chamber to lead each day's opening prayer. Later on that same Wednesday, average Americans from around the country gathered at a hotel near the Capital and began twenty-four hours of intercessory prayer. Another of our Navy chaplains led several hours of this grass-roots intercessory prayer effort.

While these unheralded citizens were praying, senior leaders from all branches of our federal government gathered in the very same hotel for the National Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by our Congress in observance of The National Day of Prayer. In the Senate, the intercessory prayer gathering, and the National Prayer Breakfast—people of faith offered prayers for the military: for national leaders, unit commanders, those deployed, their families...and for you, our Religious Ministry Teams.

Prayer is a bedrock element of faith. It is a powerful force for deepening our own relationships with God and a primary resource in our ministry to others. Nothing else renews our strength like prayer. Nothing that we do affects us - and those around us - more than prayer. God challenged the prophet Jeremiah to seek the power available through prayer when he said: "Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."

As you minister to those in the Sea Services, you may sometimes wonder: Does anyone notice? Does anybody appreciate the challenges I face? I want to assure you that you are remembered and appreciated! From the highest levels of Congress to inconspicuous gatherings of God's people, you and your ministry are being lifted up in prayer. As all these people—well-known leaders and unknown citizens alike—go about their lives each day throughout our country, they and countless others engage in prayer for you, your accomplishments and your needs.

May you be encouraged by the prayers offered so recently on your behalf. May God renew your strength and enable you to 'run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint.'

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry C. Black".

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