



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 N097/03103  
17 Apr 03

Dear Colleagues:

Over the past few weeks I have received many reports of the dynamic ministry you are providing around the globe. From the distant reaches of the Far East to the burning sands of the Iraqi desert, at sea involved in combat operations or patrolling our nation's shores, you have sacrificed to touch lives. You have comforted the wounded and the grieving. You have encouraged thousands on extended deployment and their families at home. You have celebrated God's love and grace with people of faith. Finally, you have been beacons of hope—God's brilliant lights—in a world seeking freedom and a future.

This week Christians celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They remember this week the bitter cup of God's wrath poured out on one who knew no sin. Sacrifice is the theme, redemption the outcome. For Christians this holy week provides time for sacred reflection and recommitment to the noble life of sacrificial service. I am once again challenged to live a life worthy of the one who died for me.

As we anticipate our military forces returning home, we need to prepare for sacrificial service in a new way. Deployment stresses will be over, but reentry stress will challenge those who return from overseas. Some families may require our loving intervention, while single service members may need our affirmation and direction. Reentry ministry is tough when those providing it are experiencing the same post-deployment stresses. I encourage all who remained behind to support those who return. And those who return should affirm the contributions of those who remained behind to support the war effort. As colleagues in ministry I pray you will remain strong and steadfast in your sacrificial service.

Thank you for the significant ministry you continue to provide at home, at sea, and overseas. I am proud of you and thank God for bringing you into the Chaplain Corps or Religious Program Specialist rating. What you do makes a substantive difference. Continue to be God's beacons of hope—your witness glorifies God and enhances the lives of those you serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry C. Black", is written over the typed name.

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