



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 N097/02400  
22 Nov 02

Dear Colleagues:

On 01 November, my birthday, I went to Arlington National Cemetery and stood beside the grave of Captain John Brown Frazier, the Navy's first Chief of Chaplains. Earlier this year, one of our colleagues had visited the site and discovered that Chaplain Frazier's tombstone was "unfinished": though he died in 1939, the death date was missing. Missing, too, was any reference to his pivotal role in our Corps' history. We remedied this shortcoming by having the appropriate information carved into the stone and to celebrate the completion of the job, Chaplains and RPs from the Washington, DC area gathered on that quiet hillside in the crisp autumn air to see the finished product and say a few words in honor of Chaplain Frazier's great legacy.

Though John Brown Frazier's tombstone is now finished, the work to which he devoted his life is not. By December, another 20 chaplains will complete their basic level training and leave our school in Newport for assignments around the world. They are the newest links in the Sea Service ministry chain that now stretches 227 years. You and I are also links in this chain, responsible through the examples of our lives and the impact of our work to strengthen the chain, in our time, so that it may stretch as far into the future as it does to the past.

Please join me in welcoming our new colleagues to the Navy Chaplain Corps. Make sure that you seal our connection with them and all those who have joined our ranks in the last year through encouragement, patience, mentoring, and support. Though we may never celebrate the completion of the job of meeting the needs of our sea services family, we can and should celebrate the completion of another great year of innovative, life-transforming ministry, and the opportunities that lie before us to add to our great Chaplain Corps legacy. In this season of our Chaplain Corps anniversary, I thank you for your dedication to God and His people in uniform, and pray that your ministry in the months ahead may bring glory to God and honor to this great organization.

Sincerely,

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

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