



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

1730
SerN097/03148
2 Jun 03

Dear Colleagues:

In the early 1940s Bob Hope was already known throughout the entertainment world as a consummate comedian and one of the industry's hardest-working performers. Despite a heavy schedule of film and radio production, he strove to hone his comedic timing and polish every phrase, his efforts wholly focused on perfecting his art. Eventually, he began to invest a significant portion of his time entertaining troops in harm's way.

As I think about Bob Hope's incredible 100 years of life, I feel gratitude for his commitment, perseverance, sacrifice, and service. He has never wavered in his commitment to entertain U.S. Forces and their families. He persevered to perfect his art and was ever the student as well as the entertainer. For almost 50 years he served those in service to their country. He placed himself at great personal risk in combat zones, on military aircraft, and ships at sea to bring a few hours of comic relief to those in harm's way. In many ways Bob Hope brought hope to those who needed it most.

We are also bearers of hope. Like the one who gives a cold drink to a thirsty traveler, we bear the message of hope for an abundant life as we bring the living and active Word of God to those thirsty for eternity. We too are called to unwavering commitment, not just to those we serve, but to the One who called us to serve. Likewise we are called to bring hope to the grieving, lonely, wounded, and dying.

Bob Hope's amazing 50-year career of patriotic giving sets the benchmark for his fellow entertainers. Our lives should also set a benchmark—that of commitment to God, country, and those we are called to serve. May the Lord empower us all to continue bringing the hope of eternity to the valiant men and women of our armed forces.

As the time for our Change of Office approaches, I thank God for the opportunity of leaving a legacy. Bob Hope's legacy of

competence, perseverance, and service is a superb springboard for those who will be stewards of tomorrow's Chaplain Corps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barry C. Black".

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