



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Ser N097/02348
6 Sep 02

Dear Colleagues:

As we approach the first anniversary of the terrorist attack on our Nation, we naturally recall and reflect upon our experiences and memories of that day. And I want to take this opportunity to reflect with you. American life was changed by the events of 9/11. We were shocked and saddened—and angered. We cried for those we lost and saw many seek hope and comfort from coworkers, friends, family, and God. We saw a clear example of what hate produces and how love can overcome evil with good. As our Nation banded together to fight terrorism, we came to appreciate more deeply the sacrifices public servants and forward-deployed personnel make on our behalf. The events of 9/11 touched us in many ways.

And they continue to do so. During the past year, I've been moved by the experience of 9/11 to pray with more fervor and study the word of God with more passion. The insights I've gained have buoyed my spirit, empowered my preaching, and energized my relationships. The valley was sometimes dark during the past year, but I have a new appreciation for opportunities to love others and faithfully serve the Lord. My family is closer and our time together is more precious. I have a new vision for the future—both personally and professional.

And how about you? Have you taken the time to reflect on how you have been affected by the events of 9/11? In the process of

adapting to the changes it has imposed on you, have you rededicated yourself to the sacred work of your calling? Are you more passionate in prayer and sacred study? Do your loved ones sense your deepened commitment to them? Do you have an inspired vision for your future as a chaplain and as an individual?

A significant anniversary is a great time for reflection. It's also a good time to recommit ourselves to those we love. It's the right time to ask if we're investing ourselves in the right things.

Loving God with all our hearts and those dearest to us with unconditional love, will empower our ministries and help us focus on what really matters. Those we are called to serve need us faithful to and focused on God's work so that we can inspire them to seek the Lord with all their hearts.

So take time for reflection. Pray for enlightened understanding. And trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry C. Black". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

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