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

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Dear Friends in Military Ministry,

A few weeks ago, I spoke for an Independence Day celebration, at First Baptist Church in Santa Ana, California. During this service, I could not help but pray and thank divine providence for this land and its many freedoms, and for all the marvelous and gifted works each of you do each day for and with the Sailors and Marines who make up our Sea Services and their families.

Our Chaplains Corps, like our land, is a tapestry of many threads. The strength and beauty of each individual thread with its vibrant color, character and texture are what make the tapestry so wonderful and are the heart and soul of our Corps and our Nation.

As chaplains from every faith group, we serve those who serve. Each of you plays a critical role at every ship, air station, Marine company, and division. Our Sailors and Marines would not have the inner strength to do what their Nation asks of them without the ministers, rabbis, priests, and imams that make up our Corps.

I applaud our Nation's commitment to freedom, equality and the individual worth and dignity of every person. I reaffirm to each of you my absolute personal commitment that in our Chaplain Corps, chaplains from every faith group will be treated fairly and equally regardless of race, gender, or denomination.

Barry C. Black

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