



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

16 March 2010

My fellow Chief Petty Officers,

On 1 April, our entire Mess will pause to celebrate 117 years of the United States Chief Petty Officer, our honored Mess traditions and heritage, and look to our future.

Our Navy is the best it has ever been; we have advanced equipment and technology, but we are only as good as our people. Since 1893, Chiefs have been charged with the duties and responsibilities of ensuring our Sailors are the best trained, ready to carry out our Navy's missions. The strong legacy of deckplate leadership that our Mess was founded on is more relevant today in order to continually meet the demands of our expanded Navy environment and increased mission requirements. Thank you Chiefs!

Through your leadership of our Sailors, you continue to keep our heritage alive and our Navy strong. Continue to make a positive impact on your command, your Sailors, yourself and our Mess. Remember those who have gone before us and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation.

Happy birthday Shipmates! I truly appreciate your leadership and the hard work you do every day.

Anchor Up and HOOYAH Navy Chiefs!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. D. West', is positioned below the typed name. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

R. D. WEST