

## Secretary of the Navy Farewell Message to the Department

As I relinquish my duties as Secretary of the Navy, I count myself blessed for having had the opportunity to serve as your secretary. I have held many interesting jobs but no period in my professional career can compare to the experiences I have had in this position.

Over the past three years, I have had the privilege of observing the daily commitment of our men and women who truly make our Naval service great. In challenging environments like Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Guantanamo, and across the Atlantic and Pacific, your service makes a difference every day. I have great confidence that your ongoing service will continue to do our Navy, Marine Corps, and Nation proud.

Every time I meet with Sailors and Marines, I come away impressed by the tremendous capability and flexibility of our warfighters to accomplish the mission, no matter what the challenge. You are the secret of our success, and observing you in action has given me great faith in the promise of your great generation. If our Nation is led by individuals of the talent, devotion, and integrity of our service members, we will not only survive, but prosper in the years to come.

I reflect on my tenure as your secretary and realize it has been an exceptionally unique period in my life, and likely to remain so. I am honored to have served you as your secretary. Thank you for your service to our Nation. May God bless our Navy, our marine corps, and the United States of America.