



Reflections

From the D13 Chaplain ~ December, 2017

IT'S THAT SPECIAL TIME OF THE YEAR!

During this beautiful season, many of us will focus on the original meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of Jesus Christ. Others will lean more on exchanging gifts with one another and carry on that special story of Santa Claus, old and young alike. Still others will focus on the special days of Hanukkah and many others will celebrate with a combination of these, or other traditions. One way or the other, I don't



know how anyone could ever totally escape it ... ***It's that special time of the year!*** One of the distinct attributes of any culture is the traditions its people carry on. What



I like about these special holidays and traditions, however celebrated, is that it tends to bring us all together; to slow down a bit and appreciate one another, our families, Shipmates and friends. Personally, I believe these traditions give us good opportunity to broaden our concept of family as well; that truly within the scope of humanity, our brothers and sisters are all around us, and need to be reminded that we care about them as such. I vividly remember what it was like in

a strange and distant land as a young single Sailor, and how much it meant to me to be taken in under the wings of another family, and loved. So, as we enter this special time, remember to not get stressed at the hustle and bustle that gets created, but the special times and memories it gives us with our loved ones, the love and care we can extend to others who may not have family around and to realize that Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Mankind, will give us the greatest gifts of all. God bless you all as we take time to celebrate our faith, culture and broadened family this holiday season!



Food 4 Thought: *"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."* —Burton Hillis

A Second Helping: *"The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart."* —Helen Keller

Dessert with a Smile: *"Once again we find ourselves enmeshed in the Holiday Season, that very special time of year when we join with our loved ones in sharing centuries-old traditions such as trying to find a parking space at the mall. We traditionally do this in my family by driving around the parking lot until we see a shopper emerge from the mall, then we follow her, in very much the same spirit as the Three Wise Men, who 2,000 years ago followed a star, week after week, until it led them to a parking space."* —Dave Barry

D13 RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

DISTRICT THIRTEEN Chaplains ... ***Always Ready*** 🚤 ***Called to Serve***



LCDR Bill Stewart, Seattle, WA ~ William.M.Stewart@uscg.mil
Office: (206) 217-6995 Cell: (206) 850-3426

LT Tony Stallings, Astoria, OR ~ Anthony.D.Stallings@uscg.mil
Office: (503) 861-6225 Cell: (503) 791-3733



All communication with chaplains is strictly confidential!

Ripples



Would you like a Christian based inspirational writing each month from us chaplains? If so, please sign up for our email distribution at William.M.Stewart@uscg.mil and we'll get you on the list!



safeTALK

Suicide alertness training can be offered by your D13 Chaplains – Get a group of 10 or more together and we'll come to you and teach it ... it's an incredible training to help our fellow Shipmates stay safe! All materials provided free!

Upcoming CREDO Northwest Events These Events are Incredible ... and FREE!

Registration is required for all events!

Call 360-476-3793 or email: CREDO@navy.mil

They fill up fast so register now!

Like them on Facebook.com/CREDO.Northwest for event updates



Marriage Enrichment Retreats: JAN 19-21 OL; FEB 9-11 SR; FEB 23-25 OL; MAR 2-4 OL; MAR 9-11 SR
(Locations: "OL" Olympic Lodge in Port Angeles, WA or "SR" Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, WA)

Marriage Enrichment Workshop: MAR 24 @ Naval Base Kitsap (Bangor Plaza)

ASIST 2-Day Suicide Intervention Workshops: JAN 30-31 @ NAS Whidbey Island; FEB 7-8 @ Naval Base Kitsap (Bangor Plaza); MAR 21-22 @ NAS Whidbey Island

safeTALK Suicide Prevention Awareness: safeTALK classes are regularly taught by CREDO at Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and Naval Station Everett at the Smokey Point Chapel. Call for dates, more information or to sign up.

Care and Emergency Resources

HSWL (Health, Safety and Work/Life) Seattle – 1-800-872-4957 ext. 313

Coast Guard CG Support – 1-855-CGSUPRT (247-8778) ~ www.CGSUPRT.com

American Red Cross for Military – 1-877-272-7337

EMERGENCY – Please dial 911 immediately if you feel there is a life or death situation!

