**RETIREMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ALISON EAGLESTON**

Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, fellow officers, colleagues and distinguished guests, I want to thank you all for being here as we acknowledge the latest milestone in the very distinguished career of Captain Stephanie Reisdorf, Nurse Corps, United States Navy. To the uninitiated, that might seem like a long title, but it is one that has been earned through years of dedication, enthusiasm, contribution, and determination. Although Captain Reisdorf is a person of many talents, her humbleness speaks volumes and her focus has been about her work. It is a privilege to recognize her achievements today.

President John Quincy Adams once said, “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.” It is clear to me that Captain Reisdorf has been guided and led by some of the Navy’s best, and in turn, she has spent her career in sharing her knowledge and passing the baton. In 1975 Stephanie Reisdorf entered service as a hospital corpsman. In October of 2016, she retired as a Captain in the nurses corps. With almost thirty-three years of service, Stephanie has been more than present when needed. She has served admirably. She has led and inspired her units and has represented the best of the missions and ideals held in such high esteem in the military. Although I have personally only known her for less than one year, I can understand why her contribution to the Corps has been so vital. As I said, she may be quiet and unassuming, but her devotion and respect for her responsibilities has clearly demonstrated that Captain Stephanie Reisdorf has forged a legacy in the US Naval Nurses Corps. She has set a fine example and has unhesitatingly contributed and taught as she treated and healed those in need.

There is a saying that teaches us, “Save one life and you're a hero. Save one hundred lives and you're a nurse.” Over the span of thirty-three years, Captain Stephanie Reisdorf has repeatedly demonstrated what it means to be dedicated to her responsibilities in every capacity in which she has so admirably served throughout her career. There are people that think it is not possible to praise too highly those in the field of nursing, and in particular, in the field of military nursing. When it comes to Captain Reisdorf, I am one of those people.

A man named Arthur L. Williams taught us, “I'm not telling you it's going to be easy. I’m telling you it's going to be worth it.” To Captain Stephanie Reisdorf, as you go forward into the next exciting, challenging adventures life holds for you, on behalf of the United States Navy, we want to thank you for your dedication, your thoughtfulness, your determination, and your positive impact on all you've encountered. Please know that we acknowledge that you have done has definitely not been easy, but your work has truly been “**worth it.**” A wise poet once said, “I am part of all that I have met.” For all of us that have met and served with you, we thank you. We are proud to have been a part of your team and to observe and benefit from the integrity you have brought to your duties. Please know that we will carry your legacy forward to inspire those who follow in your path.

We wish you great success and whatever you choose to do next. Congratulations! Thank you.