**Carter Speech [EZ Speech No. 16249]**

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Remarks by Mr. Trevor Carter at the retirement ceremony for his dear friend, Tremayne Tuck.

thank you so much, rahim, for that wonderful [or choose a different adjective] introduction.

Once upon a time three Naval Officers were walking through the woods and suddenly they were standing in front of a huge, wild river. they desperately needed to get to the other side, But how could they, with such a raging torrent? The first Naval Officer knelt down and prayed to the Lord: *“Lord, please give me the strength to cross this river!”*

so The Lord gave him long arms and strong legs so that he could swim across the river. It took him about two hours and he almost drowned several times, BUT in the end, he was successful!

The second Naval Officer, who observed this, prayed to the Lord and said: *“Oh Lord, please give me the strength AND the necessary tools to cross this river!”*

so The Lord gave him a bathtub, and he managed to paddle across the river, despite the fact that the tub almost capsized a few times and smashed the officer’s head against the sides of the tub, which of course did no damage at all.

now, The third Naval Officer who’d observed all this, knelt down and prayed: *“Lord, please give me the strength, the means and the intelligence to cross this river!”* So The Lord converted the Officer into a Chief peety officer, who took a quick glance at the map, walked a few meters upstream, and crossed the bridge.

[pause for a laugh, hopefully!]

ladies and gentlemen . . . fellow service members . . . friends and family . . .

i’m tremendously honored that tremayne has asked me to offer some remarks at his retirement ceremony this [morning/afternoon/ evening]. he didn’t have to ask twice, believe me, because [tremayne’s nick name, if he has one] is one of the closest friends i have and one of the finest people i know.

i met tremayne 17[?] years ago while we were both attending the m.a.t. “c” school in san diego, and you know the first thing i noticed about him . . . ?

his uniform! yes . . . his uniform. inspection-ready to the “t” — sharp, creased, perfect! this is precisely why I always tried to stand at the opposite end of whatever inspection line we were holding, just to avoid any odious comparisons with him. but tremayne’s drive toward perfection, to be the very best at everything he does, is perhaps the truest mark of the man.

Another mark of the man is his deep and unwavering devotion to god. as pastor of the True Life christian church here[?] in okinawa, tremayne’s spiritual strength and dedication to the well-being of others has touched thousands of lives. He is in the deepest and truest sense a christian, and in all ways his life has reflected and epitomized christian values. i think that, when you’re in the military, a strong spiritual core is a virtual necessity in dealing with the many sacrifices every service member has to make — being away from home, missing family milestones, not being there in times of stress or hardship, all of it. it’s truly been said that — whenever someone enters military service, their whole family joins with them.

so if i may, i’d like to give a special shout-out of recog-nition and admiration to tremayne’s lovely wife, maria, and their three wonderful children, yashar, elijah, and emmanuel, for all the sacrifices they’ve been called upon to make — sacrfifices whch they’ve undertaken with courage, strength, and faith.

now, as most of you know, the job of a naval chief petty officer is a sometimes difficult, often exhausting, and always complicated one. moreover, not everything a c.p.o. does is actually written down in the job descrip-tion. which is why c.p.o.’s often find themselves working in gray areas from time to time that challenge both their discretion and their ingenuity. but the c.p.o.’ s job can also be a most gratifying one, like when you connect with a Sailor during their tour with you and years later you run into them and they remember you and thank you for the guidance and inspiration you’ve given them. i can tell you from personal experience that that’s an absolutely *kick*, and i’m sure it’s happened a lot with tremayne. for, tremayne tuck was, if you’ll allow me, a “c.p.o.’s c.p.o,” and there’s many a swabby who’ll attest to that!

i know that tremayne plans to continue to serve as senior pastor of his church, and to complete his Master’s degree in elementary education and theological studies. but whatever direction his life takes next, I know one thing for sure and certain, and that is that C.P.O. tremayne tuck will continue to strive for perfection in everything he does, and will remain unflinchingly dedicated to god, his wife and kids, and to the navy that he’s served so honorably and so well for 16 years.

now, if i may, let me end this little speech with a story i think you’ll enjoy.

a guy named Charley was newly retired and, as a way to fill up part of his days, he decided to become a greeter at a WalMart store. but it turned out that charlie just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp-minded, and a real credit to the company, and moreover he certainly helped walmart meet its "Older Person Friendly" policy.

well, after a week or two of charlie’s constant tardiness, the boss called him into the office for a talk.

"Charley,” the boss said, “I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job when you finally get here; but your being late so often is quite bothersome to me."

"Yes, I know boss,” charlie said, “and I am working on it."

"Well good,” said his boss, “you’re a real team player. That's what I like to hear”.

“Yes sir,” charlie replied. “I understand your concern and I will try harder”.

Seeming a bit puzzled, the manager went on to comment, “I know you're retired from the Armed Forces, charlie, so What did they say to you *there* if you showed up in the morning late so often?"

charlie looked down at the floor, then smiled and chuckled quietly as he answered the boss’s question. “well sir,” he replied, “they usually saluted me and said, ‘good morning, admiral, would you like your morning coffee, now, sir?’ “

[pause for laughter]

[to tremayne] thank you, tremayne, for 17[?] years of a beautiful friendship. I hope your future is everything you want it to be, and that your retirement will be a happy, healthy, and — I fervently hope — peaceful one.

thanks for listening.

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