**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 . . . and a special shout-out to tremayne’s mother-in-law, Anuciasion McClain, who was happily able to be with us this [morning/afternoon/ evening]; and also to CDR Thomas, [temayne’s nick name, if he has one] retirement officer.

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

i met tremayne 16 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. through it all, however, senior chief tuck somehow managed to maintain a wonderful balance in his life between work and home, and as a consequence his kids have no doubt whatsoever about the deep love and devotion their parents have for 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. And a shout-out, too, to andrea, the tucks’ oldest daughter, who’s a navy veteran herself, having served [places and years of her deployments].

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.

[to tremayne] on behalf of a grateful nation, tremayne, i thank you for your 16 years of dedicated service to our wonderful country. i only wish, as i’m sure you do, that you mom and dad could be here with us this [m/a/e] for this momentous ocassion in your life. i’m sure they’re enormously proud of all you’ve accomplished in life, but even more of the man and the leader you’ve become.

so i’ll just close by saying that 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. God’s speed, my dear friend, and smooth sailing.

thanks for listening.

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