Good Afternoon everyone, as stated I am Dana Wright, USN Senior Chief retired. For those of you who know me, and especially know the “loving” relationship Tamika and I had; trust me, we are all equally shocked that she asked me to do this. I am waiting for Ashton Kutcher to come and jump out and tell me that I’ve been Punk’d; since he didn’t show up to my house and stop me from driving here all together; I am guessing this is real.

All jokes aside, I am honored to be here to celebrate this glorious occasion of welcoming my sister to the other side, or greener pastures, as I like to call them. Not that the military is not awesome and everything everyone perceives it to be and more; simply put, it’s a stepping stone. An experience, a lesson, a stepping stone.

 I myself, was in her shoes, just seven months ago. It was at that time that I had chosen her to plan my retirement ceremony. Tamika was the first person that came to mine when I decided to retire…and there were many reasons for that. Reason #1--- SHE IS A BULL DOG!I mean that in the most loving way possible. Point Blank, she Point blank, period! She will get it done by any means necessary “and drive you absolutely insane in the process, so be careful what you ask for)…. But seriously, when I say insane, it’ s because she keeps you honest and accountable. If she gives you a deadline….miss if you want to! I had to put my foot down a few times, because I was still the boss! But that didn’t matter to her, bosses had deadlines too and she offered NO EXCEPTIONS or EXCEPTIONS even if you outrank her.

What Tamika does not know, and unfortunately I have to tell you all and her at the same time…so I will try to get through this. When I first met Tamika, she has the hard-charging tyrant that wanted to change the world, and we were clearly two months behind her timeline; even though she had only been there two days. I continuously told her. Slow down “IT1…Rome wasn’t built in a day. I understand your concerns, now understand our challenges…” She learned really quickly, that if she came to me with a problem, she was going to be the one to help me come to a solution.

Tamika is the true definition of a leader. A shining example of why we as leaders do what we do. Those who’ve retired, or those who are close to retiring knows, there comes a time in your career when you just become weary. That go getter mentality turns into a “can I even get up anymore”. This is totally normal, for those of you who are still in, so don’t think you are “slacking” because you feel this way. The key to leadership is to build up those who have been chosen to follow your stead, so I am here to thank those leaders before me that built this Sailor up to be the Chief that she is today. What I realized is while I was worried, that I was falling short, because I was “tired”…she was standing there all along, ready and willing; not to judge but to carry the torch and let me take care of me; which was something I so desperately needed, and neglected to do for the better part of my 22 years. Everyone else came first; but Tamika taught me that I needed to be first, so I could be better for this next life and for my daughter. For these reason, Tamika will forever and always be “My Sister”. I have chose to define Tamika in the using the title “My Sister

Steadfast

Innovative

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Thoughtful

Energetic

Reliable