

**CNO REMARKS IHO
ADM. ISAAC CAMPBELL KIDD, JR., USN RETIRED
06JUL99
USNA**

**THANK YOU, MRS. KIDD (ANGELIQUE)—AND CAPPY, KEVIN,
ANGELIQUE, CHRISTOPHER, REGINA, AND MARY--FOR ASKING ME TO
PAY TRIBUTE TO YOUR DEAR HUSBAND AND FATHER AND OUR DEAR
FRIEND. I DO SO ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US WHO WEAR THIS UNIFORM
AND THE THOUSANDS BEFORE US WHO WERE PROUD TO CALL IKE
KIDD THEIR SHIPMATE, LEADER, AND FRIEND.**

**AS I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW BEST TO REMEMBER THE ADMIRAL,
IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT CAPTURING THE RICHNESS OF IKE KIDD IN
FIVE MINUTES OR LESS JUST CAN'T BE DONE—THERE IS FAR TOO
MUCH TO TELL! SO, IN ORDER TO BE RELATIVELY BRIEF, I THOUGHT
I'D SELECT JUST A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE FULL MOSAIC THAT
WAS ADMIRAL IKE KIDD.**

I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT, AND FRIENDSHIP. NOTE THAT THE FIRST THREE—HONOR, COURAGE, AND COMMITMENT—ARE THE NAVY'S CORE VALUES. IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THESE VALUES ALSO CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF IKE KIDD, BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT BOTH THE WAY HE LIVED HIS LIFE AND WHAT HE TAUGHT US THROUGH HIS EXAMPLE. SO LET ME START THERE:

HONOR:

IKE KIDD ALWAYS DID HIS BEST. IT STARTED AS EARLY AS THE DAY HE TOOK HIS NAVAL ACADEMY ENTRANCE EXAM AND SCORED "VIRTUALLY 100 PERCENT", THE HIGHEST IN HISTORY!

IT CONTINUED THE DAY HE STEPPED ABOARD HIS FIRST SHIP, USS COWIE (DD 632). AND IT STAYED WITH HIM THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER. EVERY DEPARTMENT HE SERVED IN, AND EVERY SHIP HE COMMANDED, EARNED THE BATTLE EFFICIENCY AWARD. HOW MANY OF US CAN SAY THAT? HE WAS A WARRIOR OF THE FIRST ORDER.

IKE KIDD ALWAYS TOLD THE TRUTH. IN 1978, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE COLD WAR, HE TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS THAT OUR ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE TACTICS IN SUPPORT OF NATO CONVOYS WERE INEFFECTIVE AGAINST SOVIET SUBMARINES. WE COULD EXPECT TO LOSE 50% OF OUR VITAL AMMO BECAUSE OF OUR DEFENSIVE TACTICS. WE NEEDED AN OFFENSIVE NAVAL STRATEGY. WITH HIS HONEST AND CREDIBLE TESTIMONY, IKE KIDD LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR WHAT BECAME THE "MARITIME STRATEGY" IN THE 1980'S.

TO IKE, SERVICE WITH HONOR WAS THE ESSENCE OF HIS ELEMENTAL GOODNESS. AFTER ALL, IT WAS A KIDD FAMILY TRADITION.

COURAGE:

HIS PHYSICAL COURAGE COULD PERHAPS BE EXEMPLIFIED BEST BY THE WAY HE DEALT WITH HIS MOST RECENT BATTLE. BUT I WOULD SUGGEST IT STARTED BACK WHEN HE WAS A JUNIOR OFFICER ABOARD USS COWIE. AS GUNNERY OFFICER DURING THE INVASION OF SICILY IN 1943, HE ENGAGED PANZER CORPS TIGER TANKS AT POINT BLANK RANGE WITH HIS THREE GUNMOUNTS. THOSE TANKERS MET THEIR MATCH! I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE SEEN HIM IN ACTION!

ANY MEMORIES OF HIS MORAL COURAGE MUST GO BACK TO 1967 WHEN HE CONVENED THE COURT OF INQUIRY OVER THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MCNAMARA ORDERED THEN-REAR ADMIRAL KIDD NOT TO RELEASE ANYTHING CRITICAL OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SO AS NOT TO ERODE ANY POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT JOHNSON IN THE COMING YEAR'S ELECTION.

THE ADMIRAL DISREGARDED THE SECRETARY'S GUIDANCE AND REPORTED TRUTHFULLY AND HONESTLY THAT THE ATTACK ON LIBERTY BY ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AND TORPEDO BOATS WAS ENTIRELY UNPROVOKED AND UNEXPECTED.

COURAGE WAS NEVER IN SHORT SUPPLY WITH IKE KIDD.

COMMITMENT:

IN MANY RESPECTS, I THINK THE REAL MEASURE OF HIS ENDURING COMMITMENT TO OUR NAVY CAME AFTER HIS RETIREMENT IN 1978. FOR THE PAST 21 YEARS, HE HAS CONTINUED TO SERVE IN MANY CAPACITIES—SOME OFFICIAL--BOARDS, STUDIES, AND THE LIKE. SOME--MORE CLOSELY ALIGNED TO MY PRESENT DUTIES--WERE UNOFFICIAL BUT NO LESS IMPORTANT. HE HAS SERVED AS CONFIDANT, SOUNDING BOARD, AND COUNSEL TO A SERIES OF CNO'S.

WHenever he'd check in, he usually spoke first to the executive assistant—in Ike's words, "the trashcan". Why trashcan?

According to the admiral, there were two reasons: first, trashcans were for collecting and sifting through the garbage to find the pearls for the CNO. Second, the trashcan was the one person the CNO could use to kick around and vent his frustration.

AND HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS SAYING, BECAUSE INDEED HE HAD BEEN A "TRASHCAN". I ALWAYS FELT THAT EVERY TIME HE USED THE TERM THERE WAS JUST A BIT OF A TWINKLE IN HIS EYE. AND I WILL SPEAK FOR MY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT WHO KNEW THE ADMIRAL WELL: NOBODY WAS KINDER, MORE SUPPORTIVE, OR MORE CARING TO THE TRASHCANS THAN ADMIRAL KIDD.

A FINAL—AND CLASSIC--EXAMPLE OF HIS COMMITMENT. ON 19 JUNE, JUST EIGHT DAYS BEFORE HIS PASSING, ADMIRAL KIDD, CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR, CAME TO SUITLAND, MARYLAND. THERE AT THE NATIONAL MARITIME INTELLIGENCE CENTER, HE PARTICIPATED IN A MEETING OF THE NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FOUNDATION.

HE NEVER QUIT OR GAVE UP ON US. EVER!

FRIENDSHIP:

IKE KIDD WAS MY FRIEND. AND I MARVEL AT THE CONFLUENCE OF EVENTS THAT MADE SUCH STATEMENT A FACT. HIS SERVICE TO COUNTRY BEGAN FIVE YEARS BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN. YET WE CAME TOGETHER AS FELLOW ADMIRALS, DACHSHUND LOVERS, DEVOTED HUSBANDS AND FATHERS—AND FRIENDS—IN A WAY WHICH WILL ENRICH ME FOREVER. TWO QUICK STORIES:

THE FIRST TAKES PLACE ABOUT 9 YEARS AGO WHEN I ATTENDED CAPSTONE, WHERE THE ADMIRAL WAS ONE OF OUR SENIOR ADVISORS AND MENTORS. WE'D LOVE HIS CLASSES! HE RARELY STUCK TO THE SCRIPT. INSTEAD, HE REGALED US WITH SEA STORIES AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES. NONE WERE TRIVIAL, ALL WERE FOCUSED ON MAKING US BETTER, SMARTER LEADERS. HIS STYLE WAS UNIQUE AND UNFORGETTABLE. I ALWAYS TOLD MY CLASSMATES THAT LISTENING TO IKE KIDD WAS LIKE HAVING A FRONT ROW SEAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A HISTORY BOOK. WE LOVED IT!

THERE WAS ANOTHER ASPECT OF ADMIRAL KIDD THAT ENDEARED HIM TO THE CAPSTONE CLASSES. MOST EVERY DAY ABOUT MID-AFTERNOON, LONG AFTER LUNCH HAD WORN OFF, BUT WELL BEFORE THE DAY WAS TO END, HE WOULD QUIETLY APPEAR IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM CARRYING A BAG. WITHOUT INTERRUPTING THE LECTURER, HE WOULD PROCEED TO DISTRIBUTE HIS DAILY CONTRIBUTION OF SNACKS TO THE ENTIRE CLASS: CANDY, PRETZELS, AND COOKIES TO GET US THROUGH THE DAY. THE CAREFUL OBSERVER COULD ALWAYS NOTE THAT GLEAM IN HIS EYE AND A SLIGHT SMILE ON HIS LIPS. HE WAS ONE OF A KIND!

AND FINALLY, I RECALL RECENTLY WHEN THE ADMIRAL AND I LOST A CLOSE MUTUAL FRIEND, REAR ADMIRAL CHUCK MCGRAIL. WE WERE BOTH DEVASTATED AND I WAS TO OFFER THE EULOGY. IKE HELPED ME BUILD THAT EULOGY. WE SPOKE SEVERAL TIMES ON THE WORDING AND THE MESSAGE—AND HE MADE ME GO THROUGH IT FOR HIM WORD FOR WORD UNTIL WE BOTH KNEW I COULD DO IT WITHOUT LOSING MY COMPOSURE. AFTER THAT, WE WOULD JUST TALK. HE KNEW I NEEDED TO RELAX. HIS INSTINCT IN THESE MATTERS WAS PERFECT. I THOUGHT OF THAT YESTERDAY AS I SAT AT THE COMPUTER PREPARING IKE'S EULOGY. THIS TIME, ADMIRAL, I'M ON MY OWN—BUT WHAT MEMORIES YOU HAVE GIVEN ME.

**IN CLOSING, LET ME SUGGEST THAT TODAY IS A TIME FOR
CELEBRATION, REMEMBRANCE, AND REUNION. IT IS OUR CHANCE TO
CELEBRATE THE PROUD, HONORABLE LIFE OF ADMIRAL ISAAC
CAMPBELL KIDD, JR. EACH OF US, IN OUR OWN WAY, IS BETTER FOR
HIS KINDNESS, HIS TOUGHNESS, HIS LEADERSHIP, HIS FRIENDSHIP,
AND HIS LOVE.**

**AND LASTLY, THINK OF A FATHER AND SON—BOTH MEN OF THE
SEA—BOTH ADMIRALS—REUNITED AFTER 58 YEARS.**

AS PSALM 107 TELLS US:

**THEY THAT GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS AND OCCUPY
THEIR BUSINESS IN GREAT WATERS;
THESE MEN SEE THE WORKS OF THE LORD,
AND HIS WONDERS IN THE DEEP.**

**IKE KIDD, LIKE HIS FATHER, KNOWS THE WONDERS IN THE
DEEP. HE COMMITTED HIS LIFE TO THEM. WE SHOULD REJOICE IN
HIS SERVICE. GOD BLESS YOU, ADMIRAL.**

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