

**EULOGY FOR RADM WALKER  
MAY 3, 2022**

**WORDS ARE INADEQUATE TO EXPRESS THE HONOR OF SPEAKING ABOUT ADMIRAL TED WALKER AS WE CELEBRATE HIS LIFE TODAY. I LOVED AND RESPECTED HIM LIKE A FATHER—EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ONLY 6-YEARS OLDER THAN ME.**

**THIS PAST NOVEMBER, DURING ONE OF OUR REGULAR HAPPY HOURS AT HIS VINSON HALL APARTMENT, TED ASKED ME IF I WOULD CONSIDER DELIVERING HIS EULOGY.**

**AT THE TIME, I NEVER SUSPECTED THAT HE WAS SO CLOSE TO LEAVING US, GIVEN HIS CONTINUED POSTIVE ATTITUDE AND LOVE OF LIFE AND DRY MARTINIS. BUT AS I THINK BACK, I BELIEVE THAT HE KNEW HIS LAST DAYS WERE DRAWING NEAR AFTER STOICALLY BATTLING HEALTH CHALLENGES FOR MANY YEARS. HIS DAUGHTER, LYNN, TOLD ME THAT IN THE EARLY FALL, THEY PRAYED TOGETHER AND ASKED THAT HE WOULD MAKE IT THROUGH CHRISTMAS. THEN IN LATE NOVEMBER, HE PRAYED THAT HE WOULD *AT LEAST* MAKE IT THROUGH THE ARMY-NAVY GAME ON DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>.**

**I HAVE GIVEN MANY EULOGIES OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS, BUT TODAY WILL BE AS EMOTIONAL FOR ME AS THE EULOGIES TO MY PARENTS AND VICE ADMIRAL GRINSTEAD. SO, PLEASE UNDERSTAND WHEN I PAUSE AND TAKE A DEEP BREATH FROM TIME TO TIME.**

**AS I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I WOULD SAY THIS MORNING, THE WORDS OF A FAVORITE *DAN FOLGELBERG* SONG KEPT COMING TO MIND.**

**"THE *LEADER OF THE BAND* IS TIRED AND HIS EYES ARE GROWING OLD, BUT HIS BLOOD RUNS THROUGH OUR INSTRUMENTS AND HIS SONGS ARE IN OUR SOULS. OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN A POOR ATTEMPT TO IMITATE THE**

**MAN—BUT WE’RE PROUD TO BE THE LEGACY OF THE LEADER OF THE BAND.”**

**REAR ADMIRAL TED WALKER WAS THE LEADER OF THE *NAVY SUPPLY CORPS BAND*, FROM THE SPRING OF 1984 THROUGH THE FALL OF 1988— AND OH, WHAT A LEADER HE WAS--DURING THESE FOUR DEMANDING YEARS--AND DURING HIS ENTIRE CAREER OF SELFLESS SERVICE TO THE NAVY, HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS. AS YOU LISTEN TO ME THIS MORNING, I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL AGREE THAT HIS LEGACY--- TRULY LIVES ON.**

**I COULD SPEAK FOR HOURS ABOUT ADMIRAL WALKER’S DISTINGUISHED *NAVY AND PRIVATE SECTOR CAREERS*, BUT GIVEN THAT MOST OF YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, I WILL NOT ADDRESS THEM IN DETAIL, BUT I WILL SHARE WITH YOU SOME VERY INTERESTING INFORMATION AND A FEW SEA STORIES--THAT YOU WILL NOT FIND IN HIS OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY.**

**IN HIS TYPICAL FASHION, HE DIRECTED ME TO KEEP MY COMMENTS UPBEAT, AND TO ASK YOU TO CELEBRATE HIS LIFE WITHOUT TEARS-- BUT WITH A GENEROUS BLOODY MARY LATER TODAY. SO HERE GOES...**

**TED WALKER WAS TRULY BIGGER THAN LIFE—A GENTLE GIANT WITH A HEART OF GOLD. HE WAS AN HISTORIAN WITH UNEQUALLED KNOWLEDGE OF WORLD WAR II SEA BATTLES, AND HE FREQUENTLY RECOMMENDED FOOTBALL PLAYS TO NAVY COACH KEN NIUMATALOLO.**

**HE WAS EXCEPTIONALLY INTELLIGENT. HE WAS AN ACHIEVER AND A DEEPLY COMMITTED LEADER, WHO ENTICED GREAT RESULTS WITH HIS EASY-GOING AND DOWN TO EARTH NATURE. THERE ARE SO MANY WONDERFUL STORIES OF HIM VISITING SHIPS, TOURING LOWER LEVEL, HOT STOREROOMS AND SHAKING HANDS WITH SAILORS, WHO COULD NOT BELIEVE THIS LARGE, JOHN WAYNE-LIKE ADMIRAL WOULD SHARE HIS VALUABLE TIME WITH THEM.**

**THIS SAID, WHEN THE SITUATION CALLED FOR IT, HE COULD BE EFFECTIVELY STUBBORN AND IRASCIBLE.**

**FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, ADMIRAL TED WALKER LOVED AND HAD MORE PRIDE IN OUR CORPS THAN ANYONE I HAVE EVER KNOWN. HE ARDENTLY DEMONSTRATED THIS IN SO MANY WAYS, INCLUDING HIS EXTENSIVE SUPPORT OF THE NAVY SUPPLY CORPS FOUNDATION, WHICH NAMED HIM A DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS IN 2019.**

**IN A GRADUATION SPEECH AT THE NAVY SUPPLY CORPS SCHOOL IN 2018, HE TOLD THE YOUNG GRADUATES THAT THEY WERE THE GOLDEN LINK IN THE WARFIGHTING CHAIN, AND THAT OUR COUNTRY'S SUCCESS ON THE BATTLEFIELD---BE IT AIR, SEA OR SHORE---DEPENDS ON THEIR CONTINUING LOGISTICAL EXCELLENCE. AS A TRIBUTE TO TED, THE SUPPLY CORPS SCHOOL IS REPLAYING A VIDEO OF THIS SPEECH IN NEWPORT THIS MORNING.**

**HE WAS ALSO A DEDICATED FAMILY MAN WHO OUTWARDLY AND CONTINUOUSLY DISPLAYED UNPARALLELED LOVE FOR HIS WIFE, CAROL ANN--WHO WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL PART OF HIS SUCCESS--AND TO DAUGHTERS LYNN AND WENDY AND GRANDCHILDREN, DAVID AND CAROL ANN.**

**TED WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND MENTOR TO ME AND TRULY A MENTOR TO HUNDREDS--INCLUDING MANY OF YOU IN THIS MAGNIFICENT CHAPEL THIS MORNING.**

**TED GREW UP A NAVY JUNIOR--AND AT THE AGE OF 9, HE WATCHED THE JAPANESE BOMB PEARL HARBOR FROM THE ROOF OF HIS PARENT'S QUARTERS. HE LIVED ON THE NAVAL ACADEMY YARD DURING HIS HIGH SCHOOL YEARS, SO ATTENDING THE ACADEMY WAS INEVITABLE.**

**HIS CAREER STARTED IN 1950, WHEN HE ENTERED THE NAVAL ACADEMY AS THE *YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 1954. THIRTY-EIGHT-YEARS***

**LATER, HE RETIRED WITH AN INCREDIBLE TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS--FRAMED BY FEARLESS EXECUTION, BOLD INNOVATION, AND THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE EXAMPLES OF LEADERSHIP *IN SOME OF THE MOST CRITICAL JOBS THE NAVY HAD TO OFFER.***

**TED WAS NOT PROUD OF HIS ACADEMY CLASS STANDING BUT HAD A GREAT EXCUSE. HE BLAMED IT ON PLAYING BRIDGE, DURING STUDY HOURS, IN BOTH HIS JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS. HE PROUDLY TOLD ME THAT HE BOUGHT HIS FIRST CAR WITH HIS WINNINGS. A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THESE WINNINGS CAME FROM HIS '54 CLASS PRESIDENT, CAPTAIN GEORGE ZEBERLEIN, WHO IS HERE THIS MORNING. HELLO GEORGE!**

**HE GRADUATED FROM ANNAPOLIS IN 1954 AND ENTERED THE SUPPLY CORPS. FOLLOWING SUPPLY CORPS SCHOOL IN ATHENS GEORGIA, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY—FOLLOWED BY THE DESTROYER, WREN, AND THEN TO *BACK-TO-BACK NAVY EXCHANGE TOURS.***

**YES, *BACK-TO-BACK* NAVY EXCHANGE TOURS—THE SECOND IN PANAMA. I ONCE ASKED HIM WHO WAS THE DETAILER THAT WAS TRYING TO DERAIL HIS CAREER SO EARLY ON. NAVY EXCHANGE TOURS WERE NOT KNOWN AS CAREER ENHANCING JOBS AT THE TIME. HIS RESPONSE TO ME WAS:**

**"EDDIE, I LEARNED MORE ABOUT INVENTORY MANAGEMENT IN THE EXCHANGE BUSINESS THAN ANYWHERE IN MY CAREER. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD IT IS TO KEEP 52 SHADES OF LIPSTICK OR 36 SIZES OF BRASSIERES IN STOCK."**

**FOLLOWING THESE NAVY EXCHANGE TOURS, HE RETURNED TO SEA DUTY AS THE *FIRST EVER* SUPPLY OFFICER OF A SUBMARINE SQUADRON, THUS BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF HIS LOVE FOR THE SUBMARINE FORCE.**

IN 1970, HE GRADUATED FROM THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, **WITH AN MBA,** AND THEN SPENT **8 STRAIGHT YEARS** IMPROVING THE READINESS OF THE NAVY SUBMARINE FORCE DURING TIMES OF SERIOUS FUNDING SHORTFALLS.

IN 1978, HE WAS ASSIGNED AS THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER AT THE NAVY SHIPS PARTS CONTROL CENTER IN MECHANICSBURG—WHICH REQUIRES ANOTHER SEA STORY:

THIS ASSIGNMENT WAS MADE BY ADMIRAL GENE GRINSTEAD, WHO WAS COMNAVSUP AND CHIEF OF SUPPLY CORPS AT THE TIME. I WAS A COMMANDER AND ADMIRAL GRINSTEAD'S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT.

EARLY ONE MORNING, ADMIRAL GRINSTEAD TOLD ME TO GET *ADMIRAL TOM ALLSHOUSE* ON THE PHONE AND TO TAKE NOTES. ADMIRAL ALLSHOUSE WAS THE LEGENDARILY SMART AND DEMANDING CO OF SPCC, MECHANICSBURG. THE CALL WENT LIKE THIS:

"TOM—YOU AREN'T GOING TO LIKE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, BUT IT'S NOT NEGOTIABLE. I'M LOOKING AT TED WALKER'S FITREPS, SOME OF THE BEST I HAVE EVER SEEN, BUT MOST WRITTEN BY LINE OFFICERS. NONE OF OUR SENIOR SUPPLY OFFICERS KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT HIM. IN FACT, I HAVE NEVER MET HIM. THIS SAID, HE IS ON A FAST TRACK TO ADMIRAL AND I AM SENDING HIM AS YOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SO THAT WE WILL KNOW IF HE SHOULD BE PROMOTED."

ADMIRAL ALLSHOUSE WANTED ANOTHER CAPTAIN, BUT GRINSTEAD LET HIM KNOW WHO WAS THE BOSS AND CAPTAIN WALKER WENT TO MECHANICSBURG. **2- YEARS LATER, ADMIRAL ALLSHOUSE CONSIDERED HIM THE BEST CAPTAIN THAT EVER WORKED FOR HIM.**

AFTER SPCC, TED BECAME THE *COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE NAVAL SUPPLY CENTER PUGET SOUND*, THEN ASSISTANT *CHIEF OF STAFF*,

**LOGISTICS, OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET, WHERE HE WAS PROMOTED TO REAR ADMIRAL.**

**IN 1984, HE WAS SELECTED AS THE 35<sup>TH</sup> COMMANDER NAVAL SUPPLY SYSTEMS COMMAND AND CHIEF OF THE NAVY SUPPLY CORPS. BASED ON MY RESEARCH, HE WAS THE YOUNGEST COMNAVSUP IN OUR THEN-190-YEAR HISTORY.**

**I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT I WORKED FOR HIM DURING HIS CHALLENGING 4-YEAR TENURE, FROM 1984 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 1988. WHICH LEADS TO ANOTHER SEA STORY.**

**I HAD *NEVER MET ADMIRAL WALKER* UNTIL MY FIRST DAY AS THE NEW COMPTROLLER/CFO OF NAVSUP. I HAD BEEN ORDERED TO THE POSITION BY THEN-CHIEF, RADM ANDY GIORDANO. HOWEVER, BY THE TIME I REPORTED TO NAVSUP, ADMIRAL GIORDANO HAD RETIRED AND ADMIRAL WALKER WAS THE CHIEF.**

**FOR SOME UNEXPLAINABLE REASON, I DRAFTED A MEMO TO ADMIRAL WALKER, MY FIRST MORNING ON THE JOB, SUGGESTING THAT I WOULD BE WILLING TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER BILLET AND ALLOW HIM TO PUT ONE OF HIS *OWN TRUSTED CAPTAINS* INTO MY CRITICAL POSITION.**

**ABOUT 30 MINUTES AFTER MY MEMO REACHED HIS DESK, MY INTERCOM BUZZED AND I HEARD: "STRAW, GET YOUR BUTT DOWN HERE." ACTUALLY, HE DID NOT SAY BUTT.**

**WHEN I GOT TO HIS OFFICE, HE WAS FILLING THE DOORWAY, LARGER THAN LIFE, WAGGING HIS FINGER FOR ME TO COME FORWARD.**

**AS I STOOD AT ATTENTION IN FRONT OF HIS DESK, HE CRUSHED MY MEMO IN HIS HAND AND SAID: "IT APPEARS THAT YOU MAY BE FEARFUL OF WORKING FOR ME CAPTAIN STRAW, AND WHILE IT MAY NOT BE FOR VERY LONG, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WHAT YOU**

**DO WITH THAT *MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR, REPAIR PARTS WORKING CAPITAL FUND*, BUT I HEAR THAT YOU ARE PRETTY DAMN GOOD AT IT. SO, DO YOUR MONEY-THING, KEEP ME OUT OF TROUBLE AND LET ME KNOW WHENEVER YOU NEED ME TO COVER YOUR SIX. NOW GET BACK TO WORK *DIPSHIT*."**

**IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR ME AND MANY OTHERS TO LEARN THAT FROM TED, THE WORD *DIPSHIT* WAS ACTUALLY A *TERM OF ENDEARMENT*.**

**THIS NEXT SEA STORY DESCRIBES WHAT MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT IN ADMIRAL WALKER'S GREAT NAVY CAREER—AND ONE YOU WILL DEFINITELY NOT FIND IN HIS OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY OR EVER HAVE HEARD HIM DISCUSS OPENLY.**

**IN 1985, THE NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE ACCUSED THE USS KITTY HAWK SUPPLY DEPARTMENT OF LOSING HIGH VALUE F14 FIGHTER REPAIR PARTS. THESE PARTS WERE BEING SOLD TO IRAN TO SUPPORT THE 100 F14s THE SHAH BOUGHT FROM THE US IN 1978, AND WHICH WERE NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE AYATOLLAH.**

**IN A VERY TENSE MEETING, IN THE PENTAGON, THE *CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS* DEMANDED THAT ADMIRAL WALKER FIRE THE KITTY HAWK'S SENIOR SUPPLY OFFICER—A HIGHLY RESPECTED, EARLY SELECTED COMMANDER—AND SUGGESTED THAT THE NAVY NO LONGER NEEDED A SUPPLY CORPS.**

**WITH A MOST FORCEFUL TONE IN HIS VOICE, ADMIRAL WALKER REFUSED TO FIRE THE COMMANDER UNTIL THERE WAS STRONGER EVIDENCE AS TO THE SOURCE OF THE STOLEN REPAIR PARTS. HE ALSO STRONGLY DEFENDED THE VALUE OF OUR CORPS OVER ITS HISTORY SINCE 1795.**

**TO SHORTEN A VERY LONG STORY, ADMIRAL WALKER CONVENED AN IN-DEPTH AUDIT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE *NAVAL AUDIT SERVICE*-- WHICH DETERMINED, CONCLUSIVELY, THAT THE REPAIR PARTS HAD BEEN**

**STOLEN BY AN IRANIAN FUNDED SMUGGLING RING OF-- NAVAL REWORK FACILITY EMPLOYEES—AND DID NOT COME FROM THE KITTY HAWK.**

**IN SIMPLE TERMS, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THOSE OF US WHO WERE CLOSELY INVOLVED, ADMIRAL WALKER'S DECISIVE ACTIONS DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD--PLUS HIS IMPLEMENTATION OF SIGNIFICANT NAVY-WIDE INVENTORY MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS--QUITE LITERALLY SAVED THE SUPPLY CORPS FROM EXTINCTION.**

**FOLLOWING HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NAVY IN 1988, ADMIRAL WALKER STARTED WHAT BECAME AN EQUALLY DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE SECTOR CAREER.**

**HIS FIRST POSITION WAS VICE PRESIDENT, FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING, WITH RCI, INCORPORATED. AT THE TIME, RCI WAS A SMALL CONSULTING COMPANY WITH ANNUAL REVENUE OF \$26M. WHEN ADMIRAL WALKER RETIRED AFTER 11 YEARS, THE COMPANY HAD GROWN TO ANNUAL REVENUE OF \$350M. A FORMER CEO OF RCI GIVES TED MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR THIS GROWTH.**

**ADMIRAL WALKER ALSO SERVED ON *THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAVY MEMORIAL* IN WASHINGTON DC FOR 30 YEARS. FROM 2009-2011 HE VOLUNTEERED TO BE THE *PROBONO* INTERIM CEO DURING SOME VERY DIFFICULT FINANCIAL TIMES FOR THE NAVY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.**

**IN THE WORDS OF A FORMER NAVY MEMORIAL CEO: "*THERE WOULD NOT BE A NAVY MEMORIAL TODAY IF IT WERE NOT FOR TED WALKER.*"**

**OVER THE LAST 30-YEARS, ADMIRAL WALKER ALSO PROUDLY SUPPORTED THE *VINSON HALL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY* IN MCLEAN, VIRGINIA, WHERE HE RESIDED AT THE TIME OF HIS PASSING. DURING HIS TENURE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN RESTORING FINANCIAL STABILITY AND COMPLETING CONSTRUCTION OF THE ARLEIGH BURKE REHAB CENTER.**



**TED WAS ALSO A STRONG SUPPORTER AND *BOARD OF VISITORS MEMBER* OF ELON UNIVERSITY, WHERE HIS DAUGHTERS GRADUATED IN THE LATE '70S.**

**AND, AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, TED BLED BLUE AND GOLD, AND NEVER LOST CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE NAVAL ACADEMY--WHERE HE SERVED AS A TRUSTEE OF THE USNA FOUNDATION FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS. HE WAS AN AVID SUPPORTER OF NAVY ATHLETICS, A MAJOR DONOR TO THE NAVAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION, AND RARELY MISSED A HOME FOOTBALL GAME OR ARMY-NAVY GAME IN 40 YEARS. HIS FOOTBALL TAILGATES WERE LEGENDARY.**

***WHICH LEADS TO MY FINAL STORY. I VISITED TED ON DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE ARMY NAVY GAME. IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT DOING WELL, AND WE WENT FROM A DISCUSSION ON HOW TO BEAT ARMY, INTO A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE AFTER LIFE. I WILL NEVER FORGET TED'S COMMENT: "YOU KNOW EDDIE, THE ONLY GOOD THING ABOUT LEAVING THIS LIFE IS THAT I WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN WITH MY BELOVED CAROL ANN, WHO I HAVE LOVED SINCE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE."***

**THE NEXT DAY, LYNN RELAYED HIS JOY OVER BEATING ARMY, AND CELEBRATING THE VICTORY WITH FAMILY AND A BIG BOWL OF CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM. IN HER WORDS: "*DADDY DIED WITH A BIG SMILE ON HIS FACE.*"**

**I WILL CLOSE WITH A LINE FROM A FAVORITE POEM:**

- ***"ONE MUST WAIT UNTIL EVENING TO SEE HOW TRULY SPLENDID THE DAY HAS BEEN."***
- **LET ME REPEAT: "*ONE MUST WAIT UNTIL EVENING TO SEE HOW TRULY SPLENDID THE DAY HAS BEEN.*"**

**TODAY AS WE TAKE ADMIRAL TED WALKER TO REST, ON THIS CAMPUS HE LOVED SO DEARLY, *HIS LIGHT STILL BURNS BRIGHTLY WITH HONOR,***

**WITH EXCEPTIONAL LOVE OF FAMILY, FRIENDS, COUNTRY AND GOD. AS WE REMEMBER THE GREATNESS OF HIS LIFE AND LEGACY, IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR, JUST HOW TRULY SPLENDID ADMIRAL TED WALKER'S DAY HAS BEEN. WE ARE ALL BLESSED TO HAVE KNOWN HIM.**

**THANK YOU, ADMIRAL WALKER, FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND LOVE TO SO MANY OF US.**

**MAY GOD FOREVER BLESS YOU SIR, MAY HE BLESS YOUR TREASURED CAROL ANN, YOUR SISTER GAIL, YOUR DAUGHTERS WENDY AND LYNN, HER HUSBAND BRYANT AND THEIR CHILDREN DAVID AND CAROL ANN.**

**MAY GOD ALSO BLESS ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY, YOUR FAMILIES AND OUR GREAT NATION.**

**THANK YOU.**