



## CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

### Navy Birthday 2017

*“Sea Power to Protect and Promote.”*



Team,

Today, we pause to reflect on our Navy’s 242 years of dedication and service. Tracing our origins back to the Continental Navy in 1775, the U.S. Navy has stood the watch in every corner of the globe, protecting America from attack and promoting our interests around the world.

The security environment today is fast-paced, complex, and increasingly competitive – the perfect conditions for our naval forces to succeed! The men and women of the U.S. Navy have our best days when we draw inspiration from the Sailors that have gone before. Our history is rich with heroes that fought at Coral Sea, Midway, and Guadalcanal 75 years ago. Today, we strive to operate and fight with the same integrity, accountability, initiative, and toughness as they demonstrated.

Dana and I are privileged to be a part of our team of Sailors, civilians, and families. Thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment to our Navy and our Nation.

Happy birthday, shipmates!

J. M. RICHARDSON  
Admiral, U.S. Navy