

**From:** Mclaughlin LCDR Patrick  
**Sent:** Mon 12/4/2006 12:33 PM  
**To:** DAVENPORT, BRENDA W  
**Subject:** Commemoration of Peace

Ms Davenport:

I am a USC-Upstate graduate (1983 then USC-S) who currently serves as a Chaplain on active duty with the United States Navy. I am currently posted at Camp LeJeune with the USMC. I wanted to thank you and all those who participate for holding this commemoration of peace.

I return next month to Iraq for a second tour. My first tour in Iraq (Aug 2005-Mar 2006) I served as chaplain to the Surgical Shock and Trauma Platoon and Mortuary Affairs units at Camp Al Taqaddum in the Al Anbar Province of Western Iraq. I can tell you all too well the devastation and ravages of war. My next tour there begins in January and lasts for a year.

Prior to this tour with the USMC I served for three years (June 2002-June 2005) as the Chaplain at the Presidential Retreat Camp David. I watched, as a Chaplain and Non-combatant, first hand the decision making process as we headed to war. It was my duty at that time to lead worship in front of the President and First Family.

Those two tours back to back - from Camp David to the Sands of Iraq - have been difficult to watch and participate in. I have also stood on the Arizona Memorial as a Chaplain to offer prayers during a wreath laying ceremony and have done so for several WWII veterans groups during my 14 years with the Navy.

The cost of war is high - beyond which any amount of dollars can measure. Thank you for uplifting peace on such a historic day.

Blessings.  
Chaplain Patrick McLaughlin, CDR (sel), USN  
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