

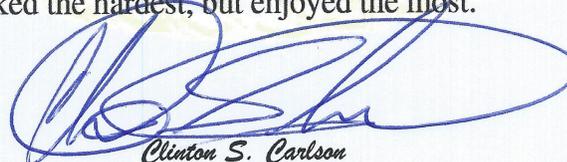
We have been given an immense responsibility, to our nation, our families, our shipmates, and ourselves. Every mission requires a leader to succeed. Each of you should strive to be a leader. Be prepared to step up when a shipmate tires and needs a rest. I am a believer in the saying "Lead, Follow, or Get Out of The Way". It's important to know that some days all we really need to do is step aside and let someone else succeed. When a shipmate tires, when they need a break, be ready to step up and fill the gaps. Learn the positions above you, and be able to do the tasks of those who work for you. Live "One up and Two Down"

TAMPA belongs to the people of the United States, this is a military unit. We have obligations, commitments, things that our nation demands of us. Our countrymen deserve our very best, and that we execute the missions assigned us in a professional, safe, and efficient manner. The only way we can do this is together, as professionals. Excel in your craft and be proud in what you do.

We are stewards of some of the most important and precious things on earth. Even the most junior of you need to make sure that the scarce resources we have are spent efficiently and ethically. If you see a way to get a job done quicker, cheaper, or better you have an obligation to inform your supervisor. Your families, the people of America, even the world expect and demand that we do all we are able to responsibly and ethically execute our missions. Petty Officers and senior crewmembers have an even greater charge. You are responsible for the single most important resource the Coast Guard has...our sailors. Every time a sailor is unprepared for a mission, anytime they don't understand what the mission or job is, anytime a shipmate transfers from TAMPA unprepared for their next job, we have failed. If we let a shipmate "figure it out" rather than lead them and "show them how", we have failed. We owe it to them to make sure that we, as leaders have done all we can to ensure our subordinate's success. And never forget, "We are all Leaders".

Finally we have a responsibility to each other and our families. Treat each other with dignity and respect. Don't indulge in disrespectful, inappropriate behaviors, and don't accept them from a shipmate. You each deserve and should demand the right to come, work, and live in a place where you feel safe, secure, and respected. I understand you're not going to want to come to the cutter each and every day, but if you are dreading walking up the brow because of the way your shipmates treat you, I need to know that...immediately. As you take care of each other, take care of yourselves and your families. Take time for the relationships that are important to you. Make them stronger when you can so that they better weather the storms that come when we are gone. Your families are important to you, and that makes them important to me. I want them to feel that they are a part of TAMPA's crew. Never be afraid to bring them to the ship, and please introduce them to me when you get a chance. The Ombudsman and I will do everything possible to keep your families informed and aware of the challenges, and successes you are facing on TAMPA.

TAMPA is a great cutter with a glorious history. Her accomplishments are varied and many. Reading her history is like reading an adventure novel. More than anything, I look forward to watching as you write her newest chapter, creating your own sea stories. In 20 years I want you to be able to look back on TAMPA as the time you worked the hardest, but enjoyed the most.



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