The Lakeside

Message in a bottle

35 Cry out, "Save us, God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise."

Read I Chronicles 16 for meditation and inspiration.

"Land of the Free and Home of the Brave!"

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

Something that is read at a retirement of a Navy service member or even at many of their funerals is a piece called "The Watch". It was read last year at the 80th anniversary of D-Day on the Normandy cliffs. It will say better than anything I could write here a thought for us to hold on this Veterans Day. It is modified to fit all who have served in any branch of the military and the age of the armed forces..

The Watch

For two hundred fifty years
Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Guardians, have stood the watch.

While some of us were in our bunks at night

Brothers and Sisters in Arms, stood the watch

While some of us were in school learning our trade
These military servants stood the watch.

Yes. even before some of us were born into this world
They somberly stood the watch.

In those years when the storm clouds of war were seen brewing on the horizon of history
They heroically stood the watch.

Many times they would cast an eye ashore or on a home horizon and see their family standing there
Needing their guidance and help
Needing that hand to hold during those hard times
But they still stood the watch

They stood the watch year upon year.
They stood the watch so that we, our families and
Our fellow countrymen could sleep soundly in safety, Each and every night
Knowing that a guardian of liberty stood the watch.

Today we are here to say
'Shipmate, G.I., Airman, and Guardian... the watch stands relieved
Relieved by those you have trained, Guided, and Led
You stand relieved... we have the watch..."

"Boatswain. Standby to pipe the side...A guardian of life and liberty going Ashore..."

As we all wish to one day hear: "WELL DONE!"

Thankful on Veterans Day,

Roger

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