
INVOCATION

"Eternal God, we gather here in honor of the USS NAME.

Through, she was just made of steel, but her heart consisted of the flesh and blood of those who manned her. They brought her to life, they gave her a personality, and they lent her their strength to serve our country's needs. Through their deeds, they won her a place of honor in the records of our Nation's Navy.

Tonight, we remember the NAME, and we honor all who served in her. Their names and stories are known to many of us, because our lives touched as shipmates, friends and family. They, and we, are also known to you O Lord, every shipmate living and dead, and every family member who gave their love and support.

Loving God, in your mercy grant peace to our shipmates who have departed and are now with her on eternal patrol. Bless their memory and continue to comfort their loved ones. And to those of us who remain, give us a sense of pride for having done our duty, the joy of rekindling friendships with our shipmates, and a faith that is strengthened by the memory of your presence that is always with us, through every challenge and danger.

We ask all these things in your holy name. Amen.