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SUBJ/CHIEF PETTY OFFICER BIRTHDAY MESSAGE//

RMKS/1. On 1 April 2025, we honor 132 years of the Chief Petty Officer rank. We pay tribute to the profound legacy and enduring spirit of the Chiefs who shaped our Navy into the lethal fighting force it is today.

2. The role of a Chief Petty Officer is more than just a rank; it is the embodiment of leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to duty. Chiefs are the backbone of our Navy, guiding and inspiring both junior Sailors and senior officers alike. Their knowledge, experience, and dedication ensure that our Sailors are prepared to move fast and think outside the box. Wearing anchors signifies not only authority but also the responsibility to uphold a warrior ethos based on meritocracy, accountability, standards, and readiness. Commands are encouraged to mark this occasion with fitting celebrations that honor the history and contributions of Chief Petty Officers.

3. For our Chief Petty Officers, I encourage you to share stories of valor and dedication within your ranks, recognize those who exemplify the spirit of leadership, and reinforce the values that define us as American warriors. Assess your strengths and areas for growth as leaders and mentors. Ask yourselves if you are doing everything possible to prepare your Sailors for battle while living up to the ideals of our core values: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. As you don your anchors today, remember that you stand on the shoulders of giants, and it is your privilege to carry forward their legacy with pride and purpose.

4. Released by ADM J. W. Kilby, Acting Chief of Naval Operations and MCPON J. M. Honea, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

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