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SUBJ/OMBUDSMAN APPRECIATION DAY//

RMKS/1. On this Ombudsman Appreciation Day, we take the opportunity to recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of our Navy Ombudsmen. These dedicated volunteers serve as a vital link between command leadership and Navy families, providing support, guidance and resources that significantly enhance the quality of life for our Sailors and their loved ones.

2. Established in 1970 by Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, the Navy Family Ombudsman Program has been instrumental in fostering strong communication channels within our Navy community. Our Ombudsmen selflessly dedicate their time and energy to ensure that families are well-informed, supported and resilient, enabling our Sailors to focus on their missions with peace of mind.

3. The unwavering commitment of our Ombudsmen is evident in their day-to-day activities: from addressing family concerns during deployments to facilitating access to essential services such as healthcare, housing and education. Their efforts directly contribute to the readiness and morale of our force by ensuring that families have the support they need.

4. Commands are encouraged to take time today to express gratitude for the hard work and dedication of their Ombudsmen. Recognize them through formal ceremonies, personal acknowledgments or other appropriate gestures that highlight their steadfast service.

5. Sailors are my priority. Resilient Sailors need supportive families. Our families need our Ombudsmen to help reduce the day-to-day friction that can limit our quality of life initiatives. Therefore, as we celebrate this special day, let us reaffirm our commitment to supporting our Navy families by continuing to empower and collaborate with our Ombudsmen. Their role is crucial in building a strong foundation for mission success through family readiness.

6. On behalf of all Sailors and Navy leadership, thank you to every Ombudsman for your tireless service and unwavering dedication. Your efforts make a profound difference in the lives of many and exemplify the true spirit of service.

7. Released by ADM Daryl Caudle, 34th Chief of Naval Operations, MCPON John Perryman, 17th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy and our Ombudsmen-At-Large, Mrs. Donna Caudle and Mrs. Angie Perryman.//

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