Frodo the hero

By Chaplain Donald Moss

Is there anyone who does not like Hobbits? Certainly J.R.R. Tolkin, the creator of "*The Hobbit*" and "*The Lord of the Rings,*" intended for us to like them. Tolkin was raised in a tiny cottage behind the Oratory Church in Birmingham, England. His childhood was simple and humble. His father had been killed in South Africa and his widowed mother was left without the means to raise Tolkin and his brother, Edmund. The boys grew up poor, but happy. They had an excellent mother, the beautiful English county side and the pastors of the church to fill in as substitute fathers. In fact, the boys were so well tutored that Tolkin was able to enter Oxford University for an excellent education and a career in academics.

When Tolkin became a young man, he witnessed the devastation of the environment caused by the industrial revolution. He also witnessed the horror of trench warfare during his time in the military. All the evil and horror that he saw around him was expressed in his writings by the rise of evil power that enslaved Middle Earth.

All the simple, unspoiled life Tolkin knew in his childhood was expressed in the world of Hobbits, the world of the shire. Hobbits are down-to-earth folk. They are so down-to-earth that gravity has pulled them close to the earth so that their feet are spread wide and have hairy toes. They are close to the earth and at one with the environment.

Their big feet would remind us of the hind feet of rabbits. In fact, Hobbits live in burrows, much like rabbits. Hobbits love the color green, delight in tobacco smoking, never get in a hurry and never do anything unusual. Hobbits are humble and brave. Most of all, Hobbits love the shire and will do anything to protect and save the shire.

Perhaps the bravest Hobbit of all is Frodo. Frodo is brave enough to carry the ring and humble enough not to be corrupted by its evil power. Aren't those the very virtues that we need to avoid evil, that is, humility and courage?

The ring was forged to make its owner powerful… powerfully evil. Evil is defined as that which lacks good. The ring is empty. It has nothing in it. But it corrupts anyone who places his finger in it. Only a humble and brave Hobbit could carry the ring and not be corrupted by it. That is why Frodo was the best choice to carry the ring. Unlike Gollem, Frodo did not seek the power of the ring. The ring's power exploited the weaknesses of Gollem and left him a pathetic schemer addicted to power.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone in our world was like Frodo? It takes a lot of courage to stand up against those things we know to be wrong. It takes a lot of courage to be humble and not seek to be better than others. We are all special, but not more special than anyone else. As I see it, Hobbits are a great example of excellent humanity and Frodo is the greatest of all. Frodo loved the shire so much he was willing to risk all to save it. Isn't that what a Sailor, Marine or Soldier does? Don't we all love the United States of America, our shire, so much that we are willing to risk all to save it?

Heads Up Yokosuka

Community Announcements

Base Movie Theater Closure – The Fleet Theater will be closed Oct. 6 to Nov. 3 and the Benny Decker Theater will be closed Nov. 4 to Dec. 2 for repairs and minor renovations. Call 243-5215 for more information.

High Rise Tower Housing Fire Evacuation Drills – As a life safety requirement of Fire Prevention Month, the CNFJ Regional Fire Department will conduct annual high rise tower housing fire evacuation drills. Each drill will last approximately 20 minutes. During the drills, use the stairwells to evacuate, not the elevators. After evacuating, please go downstairs to the party room for a briefing. The location and drill schedules are as follows:

Yokosuka:

• Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. at Ichiban, Niban, Sanban, Yonban, Goban, Rokuban, Nanaban, Hachiban, Kyuban and Jyuban towers.

• Oct. 18, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. at Bara, Ume, Himiwara, Asagao, Shobu, Tsubaki, Satsuki, Ajisai, Ayame, Fuji and Sakura heights.

Ikego:

• Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine – USNH Yokosuka will provide the seasonal influenza vaccine to all USNH beneficiaries Oct. 19 from 1 to 6 p.m. at Ikego Elementary School and Oct. 20 - 23 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Kinnick High School cafeteria. All beneficiaries are encouraged to attend and get the seasonal flu vaccine. Call USNH Yokosuka Preventive Medicine at 243-2608 for more information.

Navy College Office English Skills Class – Do you need to improve your English grammar and writing skills? The class will be held Oct. 19 - Nov. 6 from 8 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday at the Fleet Recreation Center, 3rd floor, room 347. Register by e-mail to navycollege_yokosuka@fe.navy.mil or call 243-8131.

Commissary Halloween Costume Contest – A costume contest for kids in age groups 1-4, 5-8 and 9-13 will be held Oct. 31 at the commissary. Participants should come in costume and be ready by 3:45 p.m. Judging begins 4 p.m.

Fire Hydrant Flow Testing in Ikego – Annual fire hydrant flow testing will be conducted in Ikego Nov. 2 - 5. Hydrant testing can cause household water discoloration. If you notice discoloration, let the tap run for a few moments to clear. Please do not park in the vacinity of hydrants and remain clear of the area when testing is in progress. Call 243-4619 for more information.