Warriors and Crab Packers

By Chaplain Norbert J. Karava

Is it true that one form of work is inherently nobler than another, and that, by inference, the man who would become a proficient practitioner of the more noble work becomes a more noble man? If so, what makes one form of work nobler than another?

I opine that certain professions or forms of work are nobler than others and that what makes them so is the degree to which virtue is necessary to practice them. For example, virtue, understood in the general sense of the word as moral excellence, is a more crucially required pre-requisite for a doctor or a teacher than a crab-packer on the conveyor belt of the fishery, which is not to say that the crab-packer does not come to his work a nobler man than the teacher or the doctor, for reasons other than his work, but, packing crabs has less to do with moral excellence than healing and teaching. Goods of an entirely different order are at stake: crabs over here for hungry bellies, human lives for saving and minds for educating over there.

If a man has embraced soldiering not merely as a paycheck he couldn't make otherwise, he is fortunate in that of all the professions possible, few require virtue more completely and radically than his. It happens rarely that the four cardinal virtues are so critically needed for a man to accomplish his work well:

• Fortitude obviously pervades the reality of a soldier's life, faced with hardship, suffering and death. If it is missing, we find ourselves whining about things like no air conditioning in Afghanistan.

• Temperance as the ability not to become imprisoned by our consumptive desires for food and drink allows us to be physically plausible as soldiers, to say nothing of warriors. Without temperance, our biannual physical readiness tests become fat-farm trundling comedies and occasions for nervous breakdowns.

• Justice as the habit and the ability of rendering to every man his due is perhaps nowhere needed more critically than in the chain of command. Without it, all the morale-building fervent speeches do nothing more than fan the fires of cynicism. Ah, is justice really color blind or does she distinguish between khaki and blue?

And help the republic whose defenders, those entrusted with the use of lethal force, are not endowed with the virtue of prudence, which, as an ability to choose and order appropriate ends to appropriate means, is at the very core of what "mission oriented" means.

It is probably not strange that more and more of those who wear military uniforms think of themselves less and less as soldiers. Things like this happen in the vacuum of moral clarity: without virtue, you cannot be a soldier, unless of course, there really was no difference between a soldier and a crab-packer in the first place.

Seahawk Community Announcements and Article/Photo Submissions – Deadline for community announcements and article/photo submissions for the Seahawk is the Thursday before the next Seahawk edition. E-mail your submissions to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil. Please include your telephone contact information in the body of the e-mail. Contact the Seahawk editor at Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil or call 243-2567/3003 for specific submission requirements or for more information.

Channel 15 Slide Scroller Submissions – All community announcement presentations for airing on local base channel 15 can be created using Microsoft PowerPoint software but must be saved and submitted as a jpg/jpeg type file. E-mail your submissions to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil. Contact Tony Hill at ronald.hill@fe.navy.mil for more information.

Sullivans Walking Club members participate in MWR walk/run event

By Steve Parker,
The Sullivans Elementary School Public Affairs

Teachers, staff and administrators from The Sullivans Elementary School participated in the recent Run for Your Life 5K event sponsored by Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) at the George I. Purdy Fitness Center. The more than 30 staff members who participated in the event make up the Sullivans Walking Club (SWC).

SWC members have each made a pledge to create and maintain a healthy lifestyle by walking, jogging and, or running daily. Club members participate in an atmosphere of friendly competition and attend training sessions that focus on good nutrition, goal setting and walking techniques. Once a month they participate in a MWR sponsored walking and, or running event. The members keep exercise logs to keep track of how much walking or running they are doing.

The SWC publishes many tips to help you stay healthy in the workplace, some of these tips include:

• Park your car further away and walk the remaining distance.

• If driving to work, walk to the furthest entrance into your workplace from your parking spot.

• Walk to meetings or have walking meetings.

• Walk during your 10-minute breaks.

• For every hour of work, take a 1-2 minute stretch break, walking throughout your building.

• Circle the room when waiting for meetings to start.

• Use the restroom, copy machine, printer, water fountain and break room that is further from your work area.

Group members compete against themselves and give out fun weekly prizes to assist in motivating each other.

To find out more about the club or to learn about more healthy workplace tips, visit the group's website at http://web.me.com/fhsd/Sullivans_Walking_Club/About_Us.html.

Members of the Sullivans Walking Club Kanell Mings, Andrea Brown, Jan Jensen, Pyrrha Rivers, Steve Parker, Marcine Woodley, Maggie Holloway, Janice Hines, Marie Dupreelyn, Jerry Williamson, Walt Wilhoit, Caryn French, Ninfen Rattanaxay, Tamara Choate, Darlene Brown, Liv Switzer and Dean Mings, pose for a group photo prior to participating in the Yokosuka MWR Run For Your Life 5K event at the George I. Purdy Fitness Center.

Photo by John Jensen