

To Val & Family,

I just received an email from Ralph telling us about the telephone conversation that he had with you and Ron. I would have called during the Christmas holidays, but have been under the weather with the flu. In addition, Marilyn & I took Jeromy, who is now out of boot camp to Joplin, MO to be with his parents over the holidays.

I want you to know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Those of us who have families like yours are most fortunate; especially during the stormy times that life often sends our way. We know that your loved ones are there for you. I want you to remember that we have a God who sees and who is with us through every valley that we travel and who will bring us triumphant to the shores of heaven. He is called --

"The God of all comfort." He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us (2 Corinthians 1:3,4).

But we know from experience that in spite of God's comfort, it is hard when we see our loved ones in pain and suffering. We also know that the God of all Comfort is able to and will pour out in great quantity His grace & loving kindness during this time.



L-R: Dick Nevala, Val Brynteson, Ray Beck
Cruise June 06 - Carnival Celebration

You also have a larger family who is with you - your NAVY family -- VP-44 (and also VP-24) shipmates. Personally, it has been a pleasure to work and fellowship with you during

these reunion years. I have learned a great deal from you and will carry the things you have shared with me, including your friendship, the rest of my life.

One of my favorite portions of Scripture is where our Lord makes the statement, *"If a man lives and believes in Me, He shall never die."* Then he states, *"Do you believe this?"* Based on what he said, I know that even when physical death comes, I will keep on living. That is our great hope. Here is the way the Bible explains it -

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true" (Revelation 21:1-5

NIV)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will

be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever

(Revelation 22:1-5 NIV)

Your friend and shipmate,

Ray Beck & Family