

Dear Patriots and Friends,

Most Patriots well remember spending our December Holy Days away from home and family. The warm family traditions, the religious observances that strengthened us, and the special moments with the family at Christmas are things we cherished and missed when we were deployed. This has always been the special season of celebrating God's wonderful care, mercies and provision for us. Letters and "care packages" from caring strangers, as well from family, were always welcomed; and it was encouraging to know that people were thinking of us and wanted to brighten our holy days. They helped make our Christmas deployments bearable, and some of us even discovered a deeper appreciation of faith and family during those times away from home in the company of other troops serving both God and Country in far off lands.

Now, we are the ones giving time, effort and donations to bring the same cheer to deployed troops - a message of hope and encouragement from home - because we know personally how important that is. Truly, this is the season for celebrations of God's great love, mercies and gifts to all of us!

For all of our Patriots of the Christian faith, may you have a very blessed and Merry Christmas as you gather to celebrate the miraculous birth of your Prince of Peace, and rejoice in God's faithful promises. May the Lord bless your celebration and worship, and prosper you and your loved ones in the year ahead.

All the best to you, your family, and the people you serve.

Yours In Patriotism,

Robert Certain

National Chaplain

Military Order of the Purple Heart