October 4, 2021

Dear Chief Select,

Congratulations on your selection to one of the finest institutions in the world, the United States Navy Chief Petty Officer Mess. By institution, I do not mean a special space, collar device, or set of traditions, but rather the sum of daily acts—large and small—that our Chiefs routinely undertake to enable our Sailors to perform their very best.

As you undergo this time-honored transformation, I charge you to energize this vital institution every single day. Our Sailors will turn to you as “the Chief” and expect you to lead with character and competence. I am confident that you can rise to any challenge by using all the knowledge, skills, and experiences that formed the basis for your selection.

Never forget that the strength of our Navy relies on the strength of the Mess. Draw inspiration from the creed and your fellow Chiefs, endure adversity with a happy heart, and carry forward the legacy of those who came before you by ensuring the highest level of readiness in our Navy’s most treasured asset—our Sailors.

Sincerely,

M. M. GAY
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Our Navy depends on your leadership and mentorship.
Congratulations and let’s continue to ensure our Navy remains the finest fighting force in the world. Never stop!