

This confidence has been generated not alone by the addition of the giant battleships *North Carolina* and *Washington* to our fleet; not alone by the fact that in cruisers and in destroyers, in airplanes and in submarines, we have added reassuring numbers of the most modern fighting craft.

The prime source of this supreme confidence in our navy is the realization on all sides that its personnel, the gallant sailors who man our fighting ships, measure up fully to the exacting standards that have always prevailed in our sea forces.

In intelligence, in training, in courage and morale, the United States Navy is the equal, or superior, of any navy in the world today. And you men can be proud to claim membership in its ranks! You enter a service which has never known defeat.

What, then, does one say to young men commissioned in the service of their Country? Certainly you can be given no easy promises, no empty phrases, none of the usual graduation pat-on-the-back advice. Nevertheless, it would be just as wrong to hand down the doctrine of despair.

History has shown that there never was a time within the life of our Nation when the principles on which it was founded have not been challenged. And those challenges, those threats have been met by young men remarkably like you.

If you are sons worthy of your forefathers, why, then, let the enemy beware! If your feet stand as firmly on the decks as American feet have stood before, then the world may truly believe that "there shall be no night."

How shall I charge you with your duties? I shall charge you in the names of Perry and Farragut and Dewey; of John Paul Jones and Joshua Barney; of the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* and *Old Ironsides*! I shall remind you of the traditions of the service you are entering; of the men before you who went "down to the sea" in American battleships and swept the enemy from our waters.

For let us remember that the future still belongs to the youth of the world. It is going to be whatever you make of it. The flame of liberty burns inside the human heart, and it will not die in hearts that are ardent with courage and determination. Yours is the heritage of brave hearts and bright souls. Yours is the legacy of freedom and of glory. Be it yours, too, to keep that which our forefathers won and bequeathed to us.

Optimism and confidence, based upon determination and resolute action, should be the watchwords of the day. America will say "yes" when the question is asked whether we can organize and discipline ourselves to meet the efficiency and brute force of the dictator nations, without impairing our system of government or losing our essential rights.

Whatever sacrifices are necessary, will be made. Whatever cost is required, will be met. Whatever temporary adjustments are essential, will be arranged.

We, of this generation, will keep faith with our forefathers. We will