

## **WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND THE LIFE OF A SUBMARINER**

*WHEN THE HATCH CLOSES OVER YOUR HEAD, THE OOD SAYS LAST MAN DOWN AND THE COW SAYS GREEN BOARD, YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF ADVENTURE.*

*WHEN THE ONLY THING BETWEEN YOU AND MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF SEAWATER IS A STEEL HULL AND SOME CLOSED VALVES, YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF COURAGE.*

*WHEN SONAR CALLS OUT TO THE CONN "HIGH SPEED SCREWS IN THE WATER" IN HOSTILE WATERS, YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF FEAR.*

*WHEN THE MESSENGER PASSES OUT THE ONLY FAMILY GRAMS THE SATELLITE COULD CATCH AND YOURS ISN'T ONE, YOU LEARN THE MEANING OF LONELINESS.*

*WHEN HISSING WATER IN THE OVERHEAD TURNS FROM A SLIGHT ANNOYANCE TO A TERRIFYING RUSHING CASCADE BOUNCING OFF THE HULL AND EQUIPMENT, YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF SURVIVAL.*

*WHEN YOU HEAR THE QUICK SOUND THAT A CURTAIN MAKES ON YOUR RACK THAT INDICATES YOUR WATCH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN, YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF IRRITATION.*

*WHEN YOU SEE A BROTHER STAND AT ATTENTION WHILE THE CAPTAIN PINS ON THE FISH HE WORKED SO HARD TO EARN, YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF PRIDE.*

*WHEN YOU RETIRE AND THEY PIPE YOU OVER THE SIDE FOR THE VERY LAST TIME, YOU LEARN THE MEANING OF GREAT SADNESS.*

*WHEN YOUR EYES GROW DIM AND YOUR STRENGTH EBBS WITH AGE AND EVERYTIME YOU SEE A SUBMARINE GETTING UNDERWAY, YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF ENVY.*

*WHEN A SHIPMATE FROM A TIME SO LONG AGO PASSES ON AND PEOPLE SAY SO MANY THINGS THEY WISH THEY HAD SAID BEFORE THEY DEPARTED, YOU UNDERSTAND REGRET.*

*MAY YOU REST IN PEACE SHIPMATE.*