

Then and-now, I realize the impact my years in the Navy have had on my life, We are grateful for America that gave us this, one of the very best ships. We had faith in her. We had faith in ourselves. And we had faith in God. We looked at the world at sea from the outside, at the United States and its freedoms that we so much enjoyed. The free enterprise s system makes our lives so worthwhile, When Frank Knox, Secretary of State, came aboard at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, he said, "We give you this ship. This will be your home where you will live wherever she may go. It is an instrument to kill and you will use it to destroy the enemy." And she did. Ten (10) major engagements, none were lost. We had faith in her, in ourselves, and in God.

About 1956, after my discharge from the Navy, I was in need of a washing machine. I found one advertised in the want ads of a local paper. I called on the address. The name on the doorbell was Claypool. I asked the woman a the door, "Are you Mrs. Claypool, wife of Chaplain Claypool of the **USS** South Dakota?" She replied, "Oh, yes do you know him?" He had taken a job at the American Bible Society of Chicago. On Sunday, the next day, we had a very enjoyable time discussing our mutual past and current events.

Arthur E. Bakk