

## Passing of Our National Chaplain Captain Byron D. Long, CHC, USNR (Ret) 1 September 1943 - 20 June 2003

**F**or nearly nine years, we were blessed to have Chaplain Long serve as our National Chaplain. He was a wonderfully caring and giving servant of the Lord. He moved all of us during conferences, especially when leading us through his Memorial Litany. If you listen, you can hear his calm, soothing voice reach out to us:

“One of God’s greatest gifts to us is the ability to reach back into the past and recall the people, events, and experiences that give framework and meaning to our



lives. We can produce vivid mental images and even still hear voices of those whose earthly lives have ended. Today, we gather here for just such a purpose — to remember.”

“We are assembled here today in memory of our departed loved ones and friends. We raise our voices together to the Source of Life, asking for comfort and strength.”

Although we are not assembled, let us individually raise our voices to remember this special servant, shipmate, and friend. May the good Lord watch over him, and we commit our friend’s soul to His eternal love and keeping.