



The USS Warrington Group at the Mount Soledad Veterans Park.

Captain Zirps was gracious enough to give this speech.

“On the way home from the dinner theatre last night, Nick asked me to say a few words at this morning's memorial service for our WARRINGTON shipmates. Little does Nick know what a poor speechmaker I am, so please excuse me if I read my comments.

But before I begin I would like to say how proud and pleased for the honor to be here with those shipmates who have sailed together on the Warrington and their families.

In the movie “Do You Want To Dance” a young man who owns a dance studio in Chicago is given a sentence of 500 hours community service for stealing a car in order to get money to keep his studio open. The 500 hours must be done at the Greek Orthodox Church teaching the elderly modern dance. He lives in the priests house and as you might expect they become very close at the both experience the resentments and objections of the congregation for having a criminal in their midst, not to mention that he is regarded as a “Xenos” foreigner because he is not Greek.

When the priest dies of cancer the young man is asked to give the eulogy. As close as I can remember I would like to share these words with you. “Give me the gift to speak...the gift to sing... The gift to dance. But the greatest gift we have is the gift of memory”. Memory is why we have these reunions that we might gather a band of brothers who go back to their youth to reminisce about the experiences and friendships they shared... And the ship that brought them together.

There is this great closeness that develops with all those who sail together at sea...keeping the ship and ourselves alive as we sail through calm seas and raging storms. We cannot help but be close as a family and as a small community working together for the good of the whole. And so, it is with this gift of memory that we gathered here this morning to honor the memory of our shipmates who have gone before us. For we of the good ship WARRINGTON have been shipmates and a family all its own.

May the memory of those who have gone before us be eternal until we all meet again sailing together on the restless, raging and calm seas.” Thank you Captain Zirps