

To The Deckplates

115 Years of Deckplate Leadership
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**Talking
Points on
Issues
Relevant to
the Navy
Chief's Mess**

**CPO
Birthday**

"Every chief in the Navy should pause a moment to reflect on the strong legacy of leadership that our mess is founded on.

This is a time to re-affirm our commitment to our Navy, our Sailors and each other."

--MCPON Joe Campa

"The CPO birthday is an annual recognition of who we are as Chiefs, and a tribute to those Chiefs who laid the foundation upon which this Mess was built."

- April 1st marks the 115th birthday of the United States Navy Chief Petty Officer. Chiefs around the Navy will recognize the history and traditions of the fouled anchor and the honor associated with leading Sailors.
- I expect our birthday to serve as a time of year when Chiefs re-commit themselves to the brand of Deckplate Leadership that defines who we are and what we do.
- In the days leading up to the CPO Birthday Chiefs should make the Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles a document that resonates on the Deckplate.
- To draw attention to this time of year, Combination Covers should be worn whenever possible, as a reminder of what that cover represents. Nothing says Deckplate Leader like a Chief walking down the pier wearing the Fleet-wide symbol of our brand of leadership.
- Use this time to re-assess yourselves. Are you living up to the full measure of being a Chief Petty Officer? Each of us should ask ourselves that question. Ask yourself if you are living up to the expectations found in our Creed, which clearly distinguishes between a Chief and an E7.
- Include the retired Chiefs, for they are the ones who built the Mess we serve in today. Their involvement in the celebration of our birthday will remind us all that leading Sailors at sea has remained a privilege from one generation to the next.