

# DEDICATION

to  
Bobbi Burke

In July of 1997 Roberta Burke, the ninety-eight year old wife of the legendary “31 knot” Burke, who served three terms as Chief of Naval Operations, passed away. Her death marked the end of one of the greatest partnerships in Naval history. Throughout the Admiral’s incredible career, Bobbi was always there as supporter, confidant, gracious hostess and friend.

Yet this small, quiet woman who loved to write poetry and was content to remain in the background was, in fact, a woman ahead of her time. She traveled with her beloved husband, Arleigh, wherever he was stationed, at a time when it was frowned upon for junior officers to have wives. Making do on a very limited budget, she made a home for him in every port. Although she went on to meet and entertain royalty and dignitaries from around the world, it was her Navy family that she loved the best.

Mrs. Burke spent much of her time mentoring young wives and caring for Navy families. She and a good friend organized classes for young wives to pass along practical advice on how to manage a household or balance a checkbook. She wanted to share the hard learned lessons of her early life to make the road smoother for those who followed.

Like all Navy wives, she knew what it was like to endure separation when the ship was out to sea. She recognized how important it is for us to care for each other and showed us the way. Her love and pride in her husband and his career stand as reminders that strong relationships can survive and flourish even with the challenges of military life.

With admiration for her character, compassion, dedication and gentle sense of humor and with gratitude for the example she set for us to follow, we dedicate this course to Bobbi Burke.

# HISTORY

In 1995, several senior naval officer spouses believed that Commanding Officer spouses should be better prepared for the command tour experience. It was their vision that spouses could be educated and inspired to realize the positive impact they could have on the morale of the command. Acting on their beliefs, they formed a steering committee which planned and discussed the topic during conferences and roundtables. In 1996, they presented a proposed curriculum for a course. This idea for such specialized and standardized training gained the support of the Fleet Commanders, Bureau of Personnel (BUPERS), Chief of Naval Education and Training (now Naval Education and Training Command) and the Navy Wifeline Association (now Naval Services FamilyLine). In July 1997, the Chief of Naval Operations approved the establishment of the Command Spouse Leadership Course (CSLC) as an adjunct to the leadership training received by prospective Commanding Officers attending the two week Command Leadership School. The first spouse class was piloted on October 20, 1997.

The one-week, comprehensive leadership class is accredited. The modules and topics are delivered by contract employees serving as instructors. A Memorandum of Understanding exists between the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Chief of Naval Personnel) and Naval Services FamilyLine to provide for continuing spouse involvement in the direction and guidance of the course. This is accomplished by the CSLC Steering Committee (volunteer Navy spouses) which provides oversight of the curriculum and its delivery.

# PREFACE

The spouse of the Navy Commanding Officer has long held an influential place in the execution of the command tour. During their tenure, these spouses performed tasks based on traditional and assumed expectations of the Navy and the command. This opportunity for valued contributions was performed with little preparation or training but often had significant impact on the success of the tour and consequently, on the morale and readiness of the command.

Enjoy your week and remember:

This week is not “training.” Our process is not intended to give you the “right answer.” We do not offer a “school solution” or a specific recipe for success. The wide range of issues and unique environments you will encounter would defy such an approach.

What we do offer you are current theories, methodologies, information, awareness and insights. These are skills and tools you can use to formulate your own solution to the different situations and issues that come up during the years of the command tour.

***“I shall pass through this world but once.  
Any good thing, therefore, that I can do,  
Or any kindness that I can show  
To any human being, let me do it now.  
Let me not defer it or neglect it,  
For I shall not pass this way again.”***

**Etienne de Grellet**

**Welcome to your course!**