



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

29 October 1968

Dear Captain Even:

Congratulations on your new command, and best wishes to you and to your crew on the commissioning of USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11).

Your new ship combines high speed with the ability to rapidly land a powerful amphibious striking force wherever it may be needed. To you is entrusted the demanding, but meaningful task of helping to develop new means of realizing the full potential of our Navy-Marine Corps team as a potent instrument for preserving the peace and securing the liberty of all free peoples.

"While I cannot guarantee victory solely as a result of our retention of command of the sea," Admiral Fechteler once told us, "I can absolutely guarantee defeat if we lose that command." NEW ORLEANS and the men who sail in her will contribute measurably to that strength at sea which is one of America's first safeguards.

I am sure that, under your dedicated leadership and that of your officers and petty officers, NEW ORLEANS will meet every challenge in an outstanding way.

Sincerely,

PAUL R. IGNATIUS
Secretary of the Navy

Captain Glen M. Even, USN
Prospective Commanding Officer
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11)
Philadelphia Naval Shipyard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania