

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Love, support helps sailor's family endure tragedy

On May 17, my world seemed to collapse. The Navy lost a fine sailor, my three children lost a loving father and I lost my husband — my best friend.

Please allow me to take a moment to express our gratitude to all for the love and support extended us during this most trying time.

I want to thank everyone at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Their constant prayers have helped to ease our pain.

Thanks to everyone at Ponte Vedra-Palm Valley Elementary School. We truly are a family. Their being here means so much to me and the children.

Thanks to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department and all the other area law enforcement agencies that assisted us. Their help has been a great comfort.

Finally, our sincere thanks to our Navy family and the community at large.

All have helped to lessen our hurt and made our burden seem somewhat lighter.

**MRS. ROBERT L. SHIPPEE
and family
Ponte Vedra Beach**