What Shipmate Meant This Morning

Description

Something beyond being â€œfriends.â€•

It was the every other week opportunity to hang out with history. Being the â€œjuniorâ€• one, I made a point to head out, despite the rain, to make sure I wasnâ€™t the one walking in late. Turns out, arriving on time, I was the first one. Sat with coffee as a companion, watching them set up for breakfast, and then they began arriving. I asked the Admiral if he had considered it â€œbelow minimums.â€• he chuckled and about thet time, more showed up.

The USNA Grad who invited me to this set of meetings, the ohter â€œShoeâ€• of the group showed, and after shaking hands around, asked where Rut was. Comments â€œnot sure if heâ€™s coming, maybe he met someone at a bar last night. Dick pulled out his cell phone cad called. No answer. Dick looked concerned, then said â€œIâ€™m heading over there.â€• One other noted â€œMaybe my joke about the bar wasnâ€™t appropriate.â€• We (the group) isnâ€™t a bunch of young, invenerable LTs any moreâ€¦some not by a lot, but, we can dream. So, the â€œnormalâ€• (only my second meeting) chatter begins, the orders are taken.

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My cell rings: â€œhis car is here, Iâ€™m headed ot his door. Sat and Friday papers are here. Hang onâ€¦going inâ€¦.no one here. Place is clean as a whistleâ€¦oh, crapâ€¦.â€• Dick the described some evidence in the bathroom that hings might not be so wonderful. Out the door, asked the security (gated community) guard if there had been any ambulance callsâ€¦not that I recall. then he told me he was calling the VA.

Dick walked backn in about the time the breakfasts were arriving, and sai. Yepâ€¦heâ€™s at the VA. Drove himself, Dick admitted he had mis-IDed the car, and that the doctors had no idea what was wrong.

Short story, but itâ€™s about reacting to that funny feeling, when your shipmate need your help. Dick was eating, then was headed to the VA for support.

Anyhow, as I drove home, it sunk in. Few would have thought it out of place to pass it off as just sleeping in on a rainy day, but your shipmates know that you make that meeting, or tell them you wonâ€™t be there, so they head your way to find you. Change the venue, the story is the same.

Thatâ€™s what â€œshipmateâ€• has really meant to me, but this morning, I saw it an action, and I canput words to it.

Category

1. Navy

Tags

1. shipmate

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admin

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