

DAV

Motto: "If I cannot speak good of my comrade, I will not speak ill of him."



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE and LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
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July 2, 1991

JUL 8 1991

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your June 17, 1991 letter (and attachment) to DAV National Adjutant Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., wherein you invite our organization to provide a representative on the Agent Orange Coordinating Council.

As you, the DAV was most pleased by the enactment of Public Law 102-4, the Agent Orange Act of 1991. Aside from the codification of several presumptions of service-connection for certain conditions incurred by veterans who served in Vietnam, among other things, the law also authorized a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) investigation and report on the possible existence of additional associations or causal relationships between exposure to herbicides and subsequently developing conditions.

It is the DAV's fervent desire that the NAS' related provisions of P.L. 102-4 will at long last lead to a settlement of the Agent Orange controversy. That is to say, that the perplexing question of "causation" will be answered in a definitive fashion, allowing Vietnam veterans, their dependents and survivors to put aside the fear and uncertainty that have been so much a part of their lives.

Admiral Zumwalt, I can well appreciate your desire to monitor the actions of the NAS at this time. However, the DAV prefers to allow NAS to conduct its investigation and to at least submit its initial report to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before we, as an organization, take action or provide comment. We therefore decline your kind offer to join as a participant on the Agent Orange Coordinating Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse Brown".

JESSE BROWN
Executive Director
Washington Office

JB:ejh