

Yona Owens
Beaufort NC 28516-0336

Tuesday, August 10, 1999

J. M. 3
memo for

Admiral E.R. Zumwalt, Jr.
USN (Retired)
1000 Wilson Blvd. Suite 3105
Arlington, VA 2209-3901

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

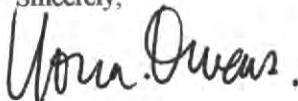
I just had a good laugh here as I typed this salutation. Of all the people I've ever written to in the Dept. of the Navy, I realize I never got quite so far up the chain of command as the CNO! "Nobody from where you're sitting." I remember being told, "ever gets a request that far up the chain." You might guess it's the same Chief who said, "Not on my watch, Zummie."

Your Z-Gram 116 reached my Chief in 1972. He didn't get me till 1974. He usually cursed us all, in the same breath and on a daily basis. In a strange sort of way we actually liked each other. I usually showed up for watch on time. The rest of my section didn't.

I didn't realize why General Vaught, Maj. Gen. Holm and Linda Witt thought this was such a funny story until your book arrived in the mail. And when I told it at the panel discussion at the Women's Memorial I really didn't realize I was sitting next to an author! What a magnificently ironic event, the two of us sitting side by side having caused major positive changes while on watch in spite of those who said, "Never." It wasn't easy making some of your decisions and especially during the time your watch took place. I know.

Therefore, the respect, dear Admiral, sir, is mutual. I will cherish my copy of your book On Watch. It is by far the most significant item I possess. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Yona Owens

YO;fs