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Dear Al,

Mouza and I were distressed beyond recounting at the news of your recent illness and we earnestly pray that by now you are making rapid daily progress and the "sea legs" are indeed returning. I suspect that you are most anxious to get back to work and I hope your subjects are as appreciative of your God-given talent and as impressed with your labors as I have been.

We did indeed miss you at the "unveiling." The reports were all favorable, to the painting that is. I heard a few tart comments from grand dames that my hair had thinned since the sittings, and my eyebrows had grown -- but they were obviously disenchanted with the real man-- not the painting. Seriously though, I am proud to have had the opportunity to have you paint my official portrait and, most importantly, to experience your kind and generous friendship.

Mouza joins me in sending fond best wishes to you and Louise. We pray that God will bless you both with faith and love and happiness.

Warm regards,



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.

Commander Albert K. Murray, USNR, (Ret.)

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MURRAY, A.K.