



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

July 8, 1996

Vice Admiral Harold M. Koenig
Surgeon General of the Navy
2300 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20372-5300

Dear Admiral Koenig:

I wanted to record the tremendous admiration that Mrs. Zumwalt and I have for Captain Ron Hargraves as a surgeon, as a naval officer, and as a physician.

This remarkable neurosurgeon saved Mrs. Zumwalt life in February of 1992 by operating on a ten-day long neglected aneurysm of the brain; and, despite the gloomy forecast, brought her back to nearly complete normality.

Last week he operated on Mrs. Zumwalt again. This operation was for correction of synostosis of the spine and according to all observers was the most difficult such operation of the several hundred he has performed.

What is most remarkable in this surgeon is that he not only practices the science but also the art of medicine. Unlike many surgeons we have known, he retains the capacity to teach and reassure the patient in the same fashion as the country doctor of yore.

In our gratitude and in our admiration, we wanted to record these reflections.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

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cc: Commander, National Naval Medical Center