



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

23 February 1990

VADM J. M. Boorda  
Chief of Naval Personnel  
Navy Department  
Washington, D.C. 20370

Dear Mike:

I attach a copy of a letter from the father of a fine sailor who has an outstanding view of Commander W. D. Lynch, Commanding Officer of USS Comte de Grasse (DD-974).

All best wishes.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22209  
703/841-8960

Attachment

Binghamton, NY 13905  
February 16, 1990

FEB 20 1990

Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
1500 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

It doesn't seem possible that four years have gone by already. Our son, Kenneth, will be discharged from the Navy shortly. Actually he has left, having accrued leave time. I wanted to share with you his latest evaluation commendation.

Included in your list of many accomplishments should be this small act of kindness whereby you issued a waiver on Kenneth's flat feet, thus permitting him to join the Navy. That act has changed Kenneth's life.

At one point Kenneth almost re-enlisted and, in fact, went to Washington, D.C. to sign the papers. However, the uncertainty of future duty stations made him uneasy and a contract was never signed. His consideration of re-enlistment was almost wholly attributable to his commanding officer, Commander W. D. Lynch. It's too bad the Navy doesn't include a process of tapping into the enlisted men's grapevine when the officers are evaluated. Kenneth felt that Commander Lynch was the finest officer under whom he had served.

Again, thank you for your kindness some four years ago. It will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Matthews

RLM/bjv  
Encl.