



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

24 December 1985

VADM William P. Lawrence
Chief of Naval Personnel
Navy Department
Washington, D.C. 20370

Dear Bill:

I attach a copy of a letter from an old shipmate. As you will see, the issue deals with the third generation of flat feet. Since the two previous generations served with no problem, I am hopeful that a waiver can be obtained for this deserving young man. I would be grateful if you or your successor could take a shot at working it through the system and let me know.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,


E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

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

Attachment

Binghamton, NY 13905
December 11, 1985

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., Ret.
c/o Navy Military Personnel Command
Washington, DC 20370

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

It was my privilege to serve under you aboard the USS Arnold J. Isbell DD 869 on it's Far East cruise in 1956-57. At the time of my discharge in 1958 my rating was ET2.

During World War II my father, Dr. Ben L. Matthews, served as a Commander in the Philippines and Iwo Jima. Both my father and I have flat feet, which are hereditary but have never caused us any problems.

My nineteen year old son, Kenneth L. Matthews, previously tried to enlist in the U.S. Army and was rejected due to his flat feet. He now has made application here in Binghamton, NY to enlist in the U.S. Navy. Indications are that he will also be rejected by the Navy since the same doctor in Syracuse does all the physicals. My understanding is that the Armed Services have a certain amount of discretion in these decisions and I would greatly appreciate a favorable decision with regard to my son entering the U.S. Navy.

If the Navy wishes to contact either one of us concerning this matter, Kenneth can be contacted at the above address or phone number . while my phone number during the day is .

Thank you in advance for whatever help you may be able to contribute. Enjoyed seeing you on 60 Minutes last Sunday night.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Matthews

RLM/bjv