

**Department of Anesthesiology
Naval Medical Center
San Diego, CA, 92134-5000
619-532-8942**

3 March, 1999

**Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt
1000 Wilson Blvd Suite 3105
Arlington, VA, 22209**

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

Our Emeritus Chairman, CAPT Thomas S. Scanlon III, MC, USN, is retiring from the U.S. Navy on April 23, 1999 after a distinguished career as a Naval officer and anesthesiologist which began over 26 years ago. Dr. Scanlon is a tremendous fan of yours and has often spoken admirably of your many accomplishments. In fact, I'm sure he wishes you were still the Commander in Chief.

Traditionally, we ask a retiring officer what they would be most proud to have as a lasting memento of their Naval service. Tom immediately responded to that question with, "A letter from Admiral Zumwalt!" He feels a great debt to your for your work to usher the United States Navy through the strains of the Vietnam War. All of us here at the Naval Medical Center San Diego would be extremely appreciative if you would please write a letter to Tom to congratulate him on his retirement. Although Tom was my boss, he is also a personal friend, and I am absolutely certain that your letter would add a vivid and emotional touch to his retirement ceremony.

I sincerely apologize for not allowing more time for your response to this request. Unfortunately, Tom's retirement is a bit short-fused. However, I would be most grateful if you would send the letter to my address as soon as possible so I may have your letter framed in time for Dr. Scanlon's retirement ceremony.

Thank you very much, Admiral Zumwalt. We very much appreciate your taking the time and effort to honor this request. We wish you and your family the best always.

Sincerely,



**Christopher R. Turner, MD, PhD
CDR, MC, USN**

Encl: CAPT Scanlon's Meritorious Service Medal Citation (pending approval)

SUMMARY OF ACTION

CAPT Scanlon distinguished himself by outstanding meritorious service in positions of great trust during his assignment to Naval Medical Center, San Diego from July 1973 to May 1999. Through his leadership as Residency Director, Department Chairman, and Emeritus Chairman, his innovations had far-reaching, enduring beneficial effects which significantly contributed to the command's mission. His specific accomplishments are as follows:

As Residency Director and Department Chairman:

- During his five year tenure he was the driving force behind the Navy's largest and most productive anesthesiology department. Managing a three million dollar budget, he orchestrated the anesthesia services provided for over 10,000 surgical procedures annually in 15 specialty areas.
- Under his leadership the critically important Anesthesia Residency was transformed from a probationary status to a fully accredited residency receiving the maximum award of five years of Graduate Medical Education Accreditation without contingency and earning the reputation as the best anesthesiology residency in the Navy.
- Instrumental in the training of 120 Navy anesthesia residents and 150 Navy nurse anesthetist students in state of the art anesthesia. Consistently named as an outstanding instructor and role model by those he trained.
- Recognized, addressed, and corrected a critical staffing shortage which limited services by justifying and obtaining extra billets to resolve the crisis and expand services. Under his auspices the department grew from 16 staff anesthesiologists to 35, supporting more than doubled departmental productivity.
- He established staffing standards to insure patient safety and single-handedly wrote the first department standard operating procedures manual.
- Sought out and recruited pediatric and critical care subspecialty staff and rewrote the residency curriculum to incorporate the addition of an extra year of residency to improve the content and quality of the residency training and improve compliance with Residency Review Committee Requirements.
- Instrumental in the reestablishment of a cardiac anesthesia program, a critical first step in the resumption of cardiothoracic surgery at the Naval Medical Center.
- Supervised the flawless departmental move to the new hospital, ensuring no gap in services and the immediate availability and functioning of state of the art anesthesia equipment.

- Initiated data collection procedures and wrote the programming for computerized workload tracking, procedure review, and morbidity and mortality reporting.

As Emeritus Chairman:

- Completed a fellowship in computer applications in anesthesiology at the University of California, Can Diego, immediately turning that expertise into progress within the department by becoming the department resource in computer technology, kinetics, electronic monitoring systems, and neural networks. He consistently and continually provided expert assistance in computer technology and research methodology to staff and trainees alike.
- Published 11 papers or presentations on the physics of monitoring and new approaches to acid-base and electrolyte disturbances
- His exemplary evaluation and acquisition process resulted in the purchase of a \$1.6 million state of the art physiologic monitoring system for the entire Operating Suite, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, and Intensive Care Unit. The new monitoring system replaced the old fragmented incompatible systems and reduced training requirements to one system. The transferable "Tram" modules improved efficiency and safety for transport with no interruption in monitoring or loss of patient data and facilitated seamless transfer of information between areas.
- Recognizing the direction that medical data processing was headed, he expanded data analysis for department to allow more critical data mining for training reports, workload and MEPRS reports and Provider Activity Reports, Quality Assurance, and credentialing purposes
- Served as the Assistant Editor for The Journal of Clinical Monitoring, a nationally recognized peer-reviewed medical journal.

Captain Scanlon's many accomplishments, exceptional analytic ability, inspiring leadership, and intense dedication to duty uphold the highest traditions of the United States Navy. He is most deserving of special recognition by the Meritorious Service Medal.



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

March 10, 1999

Captain Thomas S. Scanlon III, MC, USN
Department of Anesthesiology
Naval Medical Center
San Diego, CA 92134-5000

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Dear Captain Scanlon:

I regret that a prior commitment prevents me from being with you on the occasion of your retirement from the U.S. Navy after a brilliant career as a naval officer and an anesthesiologist.

I am aware of the many people who have admired you for your professional service and for your overall performance in the role of naval officer. You have truly brought distinction to your assignment and to your grade.

I hasten to wish you fair winds and following seas on your second career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "ER Zumwalt Jr".

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

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