

Sent to all Naval Advoca

Edward R. Kimmel

Wilmington, DE

Phone

FAX

October 15, 1999

Dear Admiral:

Once again, we ask you to reach for pen, telephone and even keyboard. On this occasion -- perhaps the most critical in terms of our chances for success -- supporters like yourself are being urged to make direct contact with the President of the United States to appeal for justice for the Hawaiian commanders.

As you know, on May 25 by a bipartisan vote of 52-47, the U.S. Senate amended the Defense Authorization Act to request the President to nominate Kimmel and Short to their highest-held wartime ranks. In a subsequent Conference between the Senate and the House Armed Services Committees on their respective versions of the Defense Authorization Act, the final Conference Report did not include the previously referred-to amendment.

While it would have been helpful to our cause for the Conference to have adopted the amendment, the truly pivotal event was the May 25 bipartisan vote in the Senate. And you should know that a very positive momentum is building.

First, the enclosed letter signed by a dozen U.S. Senators -- including William Roth, Joseph Biden, Ted Kennedy, John Kerry and Strom Thurmond -- went to the President October 14 asking him to take positive action to nominate Admiral Kimmel and General Short for advancement on the retired list.

On the heels of that request, the enclosed letter bearing the signatures of Admirals Moorer, Crowe, Holloway, Zumwalt and Trost -- plus Army Generals Andrew Goodpaster and William McCaffrey -- was sent to the President asking him to meet with them. As the relevant release (also enclosed) states, their intent is to make certain the President knows the true facts before making his decision.

Finally, on October 7, Congressman John Spratt of South Carolina introduced legislation in the House of Representatives -- co-sponsored by both the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Floyd Spence, and the Committee's ranking minority member, Ike Skelton -- that mirrors the Senate Amendment.

Thus, there is much going on from which we can take encouragement. However, on receiving the above-mentioned letters, there is no doubt that President Clinton will ask Secretary of Defense Cohen to advise him. And there is even less doubt that Secretary Cohen will provide him with the traditional "party line" recommendation on this issue, no matter how erroneous and unjust that is. Now, more than ever, we need your help in getting the right message to the President to balance the equation and create a more level playing field.

Please help. We ask that you appeal to the President to take positive action by (1) granting the group of advocating admirals and generals the audience requested, and (2) finally granting the justice due for so many years to the Hawaiian commanders by nominating them to the U.S. Senate for posthumous advancement on the retired list -- under the provisions of the Officer Personnel Act of 1947 -- to their highest WWII ranks of four-star admiral and three-star general.

Contact information:

Address: The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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As before, we ask that you once again rise to the challenge, and we will never forget that you have valiantly done so -- often -- in the past. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Edward R. Kimmel

P.S. The most effective letter to the President will be one in your own words. However, I'm enclosing a sample draft to facilitate your effort.