

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Box 41013 / Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013 / (806) 742-3742, 742-3744 / Fax: (806) 742-1060

November 28, 1994

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 641
Arlington, Virginia 22209

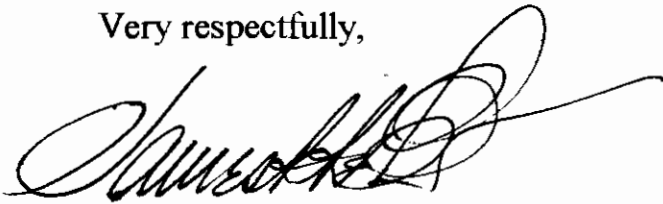
Dear Admiral:

I have been casting about in my mind for a suitable candidate to give the keynote speech at the banquet for the 1996 conference. After some consideration, I struck upon the idea of inviting President Bush. There are some obvious reasons for that: his West Texas connection, particularly. He knows Lubbock, and was very strongly supported here during both of his presidential campaigns. From that point of view, he might be inclined to agree; it would fall into the category of "dancin' with them what brung ya," as folks out here like to say.

The second connection is the fact that while we are reevaluating the American Vietnam experience in the post-Cold War era, he, as President, played an intimate role in the events that led to the end of the Cold War.

At any rate, I have produced the attached letter of invitation to him. If you approve of this approach, I respectfully request that you attach a cover letter to the invitation and forward it to him. If you think my letter should be rewritten, or if you think it inappropriate, please let me know: I have no experience whatsoever in writing to Presidents or former Presidents. I am, as I like to tell my students, "just a simple sailor."

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner