



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Box 41013 / Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013 / (806) 742-3742, 742-3744 / Fax: (806) 742-1060 / E-Mail jjrec@rttacs.ttu.edu

3 February 1997

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 3105
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

Dear Admiral:

Expanded Vietnam Center Budget Request. Last Friday I attended a function at which Chancellor Montford announced the donation of \$6.5 million to be used principally for endowed graduate student fellowships. After the announcement I went up to congratulate him, and at that point he told me that he had asked the Lubbock representative in the State Legislature to change my "modest" request for somewhere around \$400,000 for the next biennium to somewhere between \$2. and \$4 million. He said he "wanted to pump serious money into the project." As the Chancellor was leader of the State Senate and Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee until last September, I am guardedly optimistic that he still has sufficient weight with the legislature to push this one through.

I am beginning work now to develop what must be a well thought out plan as to how this money will be allocated, should we be fortunate enough to receive it. Obviously there will be requirements to increase archive staff, provide Pike with some support, and hire a secretary for myself so that I will no longer have to personally type every letter I send. But I also need to do things to encourage research, like establish a post-doctoral fellowship for some fortunate new Ph.D. to conduct good research. And I think it will be important to continue to stage high-profile events. The people in Lubbock and Texas in general will need to see that the things we are doing with their money are relevant, interesting, and important. I remain convinced that publicity is what is actually driving our continuing development. Therefore, it will be important to pay attention to that as we develop our new plans.

Vietnam Center Advisory Board Member Nominated for Board of Regents. Colonel (Dr.) John A. Buesseler, one of the founding members of the advisory board and our largest individual financial supporter, has been nominated to fill a vacant slot on Texas Tech's Board of Regents. John is the founder of Tech's Medical School, but he told me that one of his principal goals in seeking this nomination was to gain a position from which he might be able to favorably influence future Vietnam Center developments. We are now awaiting Governor Bush's decision, and I hardly need to tell you that I am very hopeful he will be appointed.

VIETNAM CENTER NATIONAL COUNCIL
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (RET), Chairman
General William C. Westmoreland
Hon. William P. Bundy, Hon. Bui Diem, Professor Douglas Pike

ARCHIVE OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1041 (806) 742-9010
Fax: (806) 742-0946

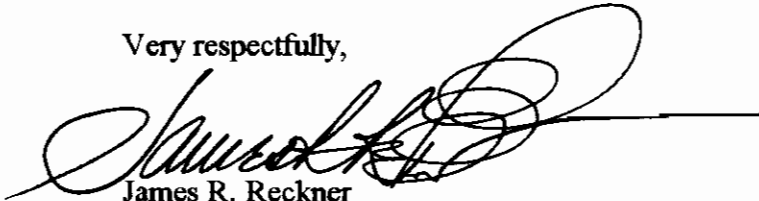
An Affirmative Action Institution

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

"Theodore Roosevelt and His Navy." Admiral Tidd has suggested that I send you a copy of a little piece that will be appearing sometime in *Naval History* magazine. It is a look into how the Navy Department functioned (or malfunctioned) during the Theodore Roosevelt administration. I think it presents a number of fresh insights into the Navy Department, and also a reminder that then, as now, humans run the organization, with all of their individual strengths . . . and weaknesses.

Thank you for your kind words about the letter to George Claxton and your offer of memorabilia. I cherish most your trust in our efforts here. As for memorabilia, of course we would like to receive some, but only should your children feel comfortable with that. If our plans do mature to the point of building an actual museum, then I think you already appreciate that the museum would have a significant segment of space devoted to the Brown Water Navy. If that does come about --and I expect it to sooner or later-- then I would very much want to highlight your role in it, and memorabilia, etc. would be very important for the display, along with Les Cullen's biography.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Reckner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James R. Reckner
Director

encl: *San Jose Mercury* article.
"Theodore Roosevelt and His Navy"