



MAR 19 1990

## Texas Tech University

Department of History  
Box 4529/Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013/(806) 742-3744

16 March 1990

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
1500 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Admiral:

Thank you for your letter of 7 March agreeing to serve as Chairman of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board. I have forwarded a copy of it along with a formal letter of invitation to President Robert Lawless, the president of this university. I anticipate that by the time you receive this letter you will already have heard from him.

The purpose of this letter is to give you a brief summary of projects currently in planning stage with the Vietnam Center, and to summarize the meeting of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board which took place yesterday. I will forward a copy of the minutes of that meeting when they have been prepared.

The major issues addressed during the meeting were:

1. "Vietnam Homecoming": A lecture scheduled to be presented on 17 April at the University Theatre for the general public. The guest lecturer, coming from Houston at his own expense for the lecture, is a former Army officer (III CTZ, 1971-72), who paid a return visit there in November, 1989. The enclosed article (Chicago Tribune, December 12, 1989) is his own description of the visit.

We plan to use this lecture as a vehicle to rally a large number of the local Vietnam veterans around the activities of the center. A local advertizing agency is developing a formal ad for the lecture, and the local Air Force public relations officer will distribute 80+ camera-ready copies to the local and regional papers for free publication.

We also have a five minute spot on local television about a week before the event, and a similar radio spot on the morning of the lecture. We anticipate a mid-afternoon press conference that will allow coverage on the 6:00 p.m. news immediately before the lecture.

Those who actually attend the lecture will be asked to provide their names and addresses so that we can develop a mailing list of people & organizations in the area who would be receptive and supportive toward us.

The lecturer, Mr. John Clark, will be the guest at a reception being hosted by the president of the local winery, Mr. John  
*"An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution"*

Lowey (former Captain, USMC and Vietnam vet).

I believe that at this point we are well organized to gain the maximum publicity and support from this event. My present estimate of total cost to the Center is \$200.00! I wish everything came with a price tag like that.

2. Major Conference on Vietnam. The Advisory Board has decided to begin advanced planning for a major conference on the Vietnam Conflict, to be held in the Spring of 1993. We have chosen 1993 because it is the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Accords and the end of active American involvement in Vietnam.

I will be working closely with the Development Office of the university to complete proposals to the National Endowment for the Humanities to seek financing for the conference. We also will be approaching various companies and organizations in the area to help with expenses.

3. Vietnam Film Festival. A committee of the Advisory Board has been appointed to organize a Vietnam Film Festival. They have tentatively set aside the dates 28, 29, & 30 September 1990 for that event, and will be working out details to present to the Advisory Board when it meets in May.

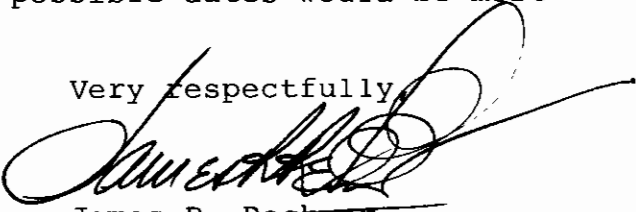
4. Constitution. A second committee has been formed to draft a constitution for the Advisory Board, and will present a draft to the Board when they meet in May.

5. Development. The Office of Development has expressed their gratitude that you have chosen to lend your support to the Center. They feel certain that when we approach corporations for donations for the Vietnam Center, your support as Chairman will have a very positive effect.

On a personal note, I have been fortunate enough to receive a National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend for this summer. It will permit me to work all summer on my current project, which is a history of the enlisted men in Teddy Roosevelt's navy. My research will most probably bring me to the Washington area some time in June. If it is convenient to you when I reach Washington, I would stop by for ten or fifteen minutes to discuss the Vietnam Center with you.

Finally, you mentioned in your letter of 7 March that your schedule was oversubscribed until this Fall. Do you think it would be possible some time in the not too distant future to locate a time in your schedule in the Fall when you might visit? I know the members of the Advisory Board and the University are very anxious to make your visit here a very special occasion, and so, any advance notice of the possible dates would be most appreciated.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner



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

23 March 1990

Professor James R. Reckner  
Texas Tech University  
Department of History  
Box 4529  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1013

Dear James:

Thank you for your letter of 16 March.

With regard to getting together with me in Washington, DC, I am in and out a great deal so you should make the appointment ahead of time.

Perhaps when you drop in, we can talk about a possible date for me to come to Texas.

I would be willing, at this time, to commit to be at the major conference in the Spring of 1993 provided you could get me the dates by the end of this year.

Sincerely,

*Bud Zumwalt*  
E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

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