

# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## THE VIETNAM CENTER

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May 11, 1998

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

Dear Admiral:

I take this opportunity to forward a copy of Blake Dunnavent's dissertation, "Muddy Waters." Blake was my first graduate student when I arrived at Texas Tech. He is now working to convert the dissertation into a publishable manuscript.

At last Saturday's graduation, the History Department, with a full-time faculty of about thirty tenured or tenure-track professors, produced two Ph.D.s and five M.A.s. Of that number, all but one of the M.A.s were my students in military history!! At that rate, we most surely will win the struggle in the years ahead.

I currently have seven doctoral candidates at various stages of their work. The dissertations in progress include a history of the A-10 Warthog, being written by a retired USAF lieutenant colonel who flew the aircraft; a biography of USMC General McCutcheon, which will focus on the development of the vertical envelopment concept; a study of the evolution of Marine Corps aviation, with focus on close air support, from 1942 to 1953; a study of the American involvement in Laos; and a work on American attitudes toward death and dying in combat, as reflected during the Vietnam war.

As for publications, the next *Indochina Chronology* is at the printers. The next newsletter is being finished up at Phil Price's and should go to the printer today. And the new guide to the Archive arrived last week.

Everything is on track for June. I have put Les Cullen in charge of details until my return. Concerning your luncheon address on Friday, June 12, I wonder whether you would agree to base your talk around responding to the question, "What should we teach our children about the Vietnam War?"

I was very pleased to receive a very positive e-mail message from Professor Ngoc regarding his recent visit to Texas Tech and their attitude toward future cooperation with us. I think the treatment accorded the Vietnamese during their stay was an investment that

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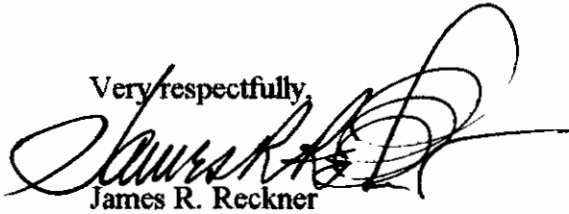
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will pay significant dividends for us. They think they received special treatment; in fact, that is the way we treat all of our guests. Nevertheless, I am pleased to let them keep thinking positively about us.

I have spoken to the executive assistants for Chancellor Montford and President Haragan, and they know they have to set firm dates for next year's Vietnam visit during the next couple of weeks. I intend to have firm dates in hand when I go to Vietnam, so that I can more effectively lay the groundwork for next year's visit. The Chancellor has said he wants to give out scholarships during his visit. Doubtless, that will take a good deal of organization well before the actual trip.

Should you wish to contact me for any reason during my visit to New Zealand, I will be checking my son's Email daily. His address is: . Middy and I leave Lubbock on Friday, May 15. I return on Wednesday, June 3 about midnight, and will be at my desk by about 0900 on June 4.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner

encl: Dunnavent dissertation  
Ngoc e-mail

xc: Vice Admiral Emmett H. Tidd (w/encl)