



file: Navy:

**USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY, LST-1167, ASSOCIATION**

3770 N. HIGHWAY 29 • NEWNAN, GEORGIA 30265

OCT 18 1995

ADMIRAL E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.  
U.S. Navy Retired  
1000 Wilson Blvd.  
Suite 3105  
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

**OFFICERS**

President - Jere Beery  
Vice President - John Nosek  
Secretary - Dan Bailey  
Treasurer - Glenn Casey

10/13/95

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

Wanted to drop you a line of appreciation for your "Address of the Moment" at our services in DC on 10/8/95. You really made our pilgrimage to the Wall a wonderful experience. Especially for our Gold Star Mothers and mining survivors. You gave a great deal of credence to our humble effort to honor the military tragedy of the mining of U.S.S. WESTCHESTER COUNTY. ALL the feedback from our membership has been "extremely" positive and very meaningful.

In this day of the "Special Interest" groups, it is reassuring to have a military man of your caliber endorsing the worthiness and believes of those whom served under your command so many years ago. For some of us, we can not forget, nor do we wish to. And hopefully we will never forget the sacrifices made by our shipmates, family, and friends. The difficulty many veterans face today is because they don't know an honorable way to remember their service. I am proud to say that our membership has successfully recouped much of the honor we were denied at the end of the Vietnam War. You have been very instrumental in this metamorphoses.

I thank God every night for the opportunity I had to finally meet you and shake your hand. I wish we had more time to talk, but my gratitude for your generosity overshadows any self-serving disappointment I may have.

Your understanding and receptiveness over the past 7, or so years, has given me a great deal of strength in my personal quest to promote positive change in the way our veterans are perceived and treated.

I have stepped aside as our association president, so as to explore other ideas I have concerning the future of this Country's veterans. Dave Visser, a mining survivor, has been elected as our new President. I am sure Dave will do a good job, as he is a good person and understands our objectives. I felt I had taken the guys as far as I could, and I want to establish an organization run by the membership, not by just a very few.

These men are really an exceptional group, and I feel confident they will produce an exceptional organization. I will continue to contribute to the project as historian, with my main objective being the continued development/production of a documentary film about the service and sacrifice of the U.S.S. WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

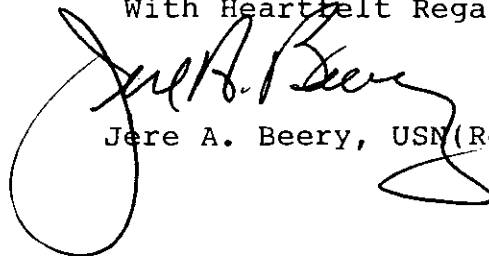
All in all, our trek to Washington, DC, was a tremendous success. On a scale of 1 to 10, it rated a 100.

Once again I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your words of encouragement and your continued support. You have given this vet more than you will ever know.

I wish you and your family good health and God's blessings.

Please give Mrs. Zumwalt my best. She is a very beautiful lady, and it was great to meet her.

With Heartfelt Regards,



Jere A. Beery, USN(Ret.)