





VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

November 4, 1999

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Admiral Elmo Zumwalt USN (Ret.)
Admiral Zumwalt & Consultants, Inc.

Dear Adm. Zumwalt,

A few weeks ago, I asked you to be on the lookout for this packet of materials. I hope now you'll see why it was so important to me that I get this material into your hands — and why I wish I had been able to get it to you sooner.

I told you in my recent letter this is the most ambitious undertaking for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund since the raising of the Wall in 1982. In truth, I'm not aware of anything like this ever having been attempted by any other organization in this country.

It's called *Echoes From The Wall: History, Learning and Leadership Through The Lens of The Vietnam War Era*, and it is a state-of-the-art educational program that goes beyond the study of history to imbue our future leaders and citizenry, sitting in classrooms today, with a heightened sense of leadership, responsibility and global understanding.

Our mission is to obtain the means to support the rollout of *Echoes From The Wall* in every one of America's 28,000 public and private high schools.

It is because of your extremely powerful commitment to the work of the Memorial Fund, Adm. Zumwalt, that I am sending this package to you today.

After all, it is only because of wonderful friends like you that the Wall was built in the first place.

It is only because of wonderful friends like you that the Memorial Fund has been able to bring long-overdue honor and recognition to the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in Vietnam.

It is only because of wonderful friends like you that the Wall has truly become a place where injustice has been corrected, where healings, restorations and reunions have occurred.

It is only because of wonderful friends like you that *The Wall That Heals* has been able to carry that same remarkable healing power to communities all across America.

And it is only because of wonderful friends like you that we can even hope that *Echoes From The Wall* will be the success America needs it to be!

This is not some self-serving program developed in a vacuum. The creation of *Echoes From The Wall* is in response to a deluge of requests from educators and school administrators throughout the country.

Only the Civil War divided America more sharply than did the Vietnam War. No one who lived through that period can look back on it without remembering the debate that raged and the discord that reigned.

And, the effort to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was more hotly debated than any other memorial in our nation's capital before or since.

Yet most high school students today cannot identify the Vietnam War's major figures, key events or controversial issues or, sadly, the location of the country! Nor can they comprehend why that turbulent time continues to influence America's foreign policy to this very day.

Far more than a basic study of history, *Echoes From The Wall* is a detailed, thorough examination and presentation of *all* perspectives of this divisive time in America's history.

For example, the dynamic interactive Internet site (www.teachvietnam.org), which is a key component of the program, includes a virtual tour of the Memorial and an historic oral archive with messages both . . .

. . . from family members and friends of the 58,219 Americans whose names are engraved on the Wall, and . . .

. . . from opponents of the war and others who lived during those turbulent, trying times.

Thanks to the support we have received from WinStar and other major sponsors, your investment of only \$250 will allow us to put *Echoes From The Wall* into one more school.

\$500 will let two high schools add this vitally important program to their curriculum.

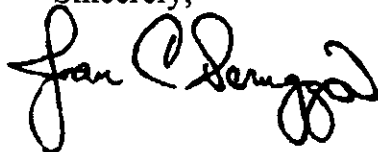
And of course, \$1,000, if you could possibly afford to send that much, would place the *Echoes From The Wall* curriculum into four of America's high schools!

Vietnam tore America apart. *Echoes From The Wall* will help our youth of today make sure that does not happen again tomorrow.

Thank you for everything you have already done for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and for at least considering my request for assistance in this very, very special and important program!

If you would like to contact us about *Echoes From The Wall*, please call and ask for Maurice Chaite or myself at (202) 393-0090.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan C. Scruggs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan C. Scruggs
President

P.S. The national kickoff for *Echoes From The Wall* will be November 10-11, but it was important to me that you be alerted beforehand. We're hoping for significant national news coverage and hope you will watch and tell friends and neighbors to do the same. The more people we can make aware of this effort, the more effective our mission will be.

P.P.S. Because our goal is to have *Echoes From The Wall* in place in America's high schools for the upcoming spring semester, time is critical. If you can help, it would be wonderful if you could send your gift this week, or by Monday at the latest. Thanks!

P.P.P.S. If your contribution is \$250 or more, your name will be added to the Teachers Guide for *Echoes From The Wall* so that every participating teacher will be aware of your special role in this unique project!



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Tragically, such recent events as the awful killings at Columbine High School show how desperately our young people need to understand what it means to be responsible citizens.

How they need to understand their responsibilities to each other and to the disenfranchised or “misfits” within our communities.

How they need to realize our individual and collective responsibilities within our multi-cultural world.

Echoes From The Wall will give our young people, the leaders of tomorrow, the knowledge and understanding that will allow them to make decisions, both as individuals and as a nation, that reflect an awareness of the past.

Through critical thinking exercises and cooperative learning techniques, students will probe issues related to the Vietnam era — concepts like character-building, civic responsibility, leadership and violence prevention — to better guide those decisions now and throughout their lives.

Another key component is the involvement of America’s vets, who, in classroom discussions, will share their experiences in Vietnam with students and, when appropriate, will focus on violence prevention.

Each of the 28,000 high schools have received only one first-class, mixed-media curriculum package on the Vietnam War. (All materials in the *Echoes From The Wall* curriculum meet all federal and state education standards.) Of course, one curriculum package is not sufficient to expect high schools to effectively initiate the *Echoes From The Wall* program. We need to do more.

This ambitious undertaking is only possible for us to consider thanks to a very special partnership with WinStar for Education.

But to make it work, to get *Echoes From The Wall* program into every high school in America, we need your help.

It’s not so much a contribution I’m asking you to make as it is an investment.

An investment in America’s young people. An investment in America itself. An investment in our future.

