



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

April 13, 1999

Mr. Jan C. Scruggs  
President  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Dear Jan:

I am looking forward to speaking at the *In Memory Day* Ceremony on Monday, April 19.

Please find attached the completed *In Memory* application for my son Elmo. I will send a photo along once I locate one of him alone.

Ruth Coder Fitzgerald, President of The Vietnam War in Memory Memorial, Inc., has requested that I make reference to their efforts to place a plaque near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in memory of the Vietnam War veterans who have lost their lives since the end of the conflict during my speech on Monday. Would you please let me know your feelings on that issue before I work it into my remarks?

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

answer back

Hi and do not mention it

Enclosure

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund  
**In Memory Application**

A program designed to honor those veterans and civilians whose names are not on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial but who died as a result of their experiences in Vietnam.

**PERSON IN MEMORY HONORS** (provide as much information as known):

Last Name ZUMWALT, III First Name Elmo Middle Name Russell

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT HIM/HER - IF KNOWN**

Relationship to You and/or Reason for Request (answer as fully as possible)

son

Dates of Vietnam Tour Jul 69 - Jun 70 Birth Date July 30, 1946 Date of Death Aug 13, 1988  
Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Hometown Fayetteville Home State NC Home of Record \_\_\_\_\_  
Locations (In Vietnam) Rivers in E Corps and Delta  
Nick Names (In Vietnam) \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Information \_\_\_\_\_

\*For Military Honorees: Branch of Service (circle):

A Army    **N** Navy    F Air Force    M Marine Corps    C Coast Guard

Rank Lt Jg Soc. Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Service # 734613

Fill in designations or equivalent as appropriate for each branch of service:

Division PCF 35 Brigade \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

\* For Civilian Honorees: Branch of Civilian Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities in Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please send a copy of the death certificate and a copy of the military records showing service in Vietnam as well as two photographs of the honoree.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND CAUSE OF DEATH**

(additional sheets can be attached if necessary):

see attached

**INFORMATION ABOUT YOU**

Last Name ZUMWALT, JR. First Name Elmo Middle Name Russell (ADMIRAL)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State VA Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**ELMO RUSSELL ZUMWALT, III**  
**July 30, 1946 - August 13, 1988**

Elmo Russell Zumwalt, III, was born in Tulare, California, on July 30, 1946. The first child of Admiral Elmo R Zumwalt, Jr., and Mouza Coutelais-du-Roche.

He graduated for Annandale High School in Annandale, Virginia, in 1964 where he delivered the graduation address. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1968 with an ROTC commission.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1968 to 1970. First as an ensign on the Destroyer USS CLAUDE V. RICKETTS, following which he volunteered for duty in Vietnam. He served in Vietnam from 1969 until 1970 as Commander of Swift Boat PCF 35. For his exploits there, he was awarded: Bronze Star Medal (two awards), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and Combat after Action Ribbon.

After the war, Elmo married Kathy Counselman. After obtaining his law degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, he became a successful lawyer in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Kathy and Elmo have two children, Maya and Russell.

During Lieutenant Zumwalt's tour in South Vietnam, the chemical defoliant Agent Orange was sprayed continually along the rivers he and his crew patrolled. In 1983 he learned - like scores of other Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange - that he had developed cancer.

The story of his experience in Vietnam and his courageous battle against cancer was told in a book which he co-authored with his father, *My Father, My Son*. Subsequently the book was produced as a movie and appeared on CBS TV on May 22, 1988.

In January 1983 he was diagnosed as having nodular poorly differentiated lymphoma, an incurable form of lymphoma. In 1985 he was diagnosed as having a second form of lymphoma, Hodgkins Disease. Following extensive and unsuccessful chemotherapy, he volunteered for a bone marrow transplant with his sister, Mouzetta, providing the bone marrow at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington. A year later one of the two forms of lymphoma returned and could not be cured despite much subsequent chemotherapy. He died at his home in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on August 13, 1988. His ashes were scattered over Pinehurst, North Carolina.