

15 Dec 1989

Dear Dad,

Received your letter today and I can't believe the people you get to visit Knox county. It's beyond comprehension that Admiral Zumwalt would find time to visit. You are right that he is a very historical man in relation to the Navy and the new direction he led us into. If it hadn't been for him MANY young sailors would have not chosen to stay on including me. During his tenure many Admirals failed to support him and in some cases undermined him on occasions. Some went so far as to ignore some of his policies. I have the highest respect for him, the tough decisions he made, and the courage to see to it that sailors were treated fairly and that concerns were properly addressed. No other Admiral in the past twenty years had a more dramatic and positive impact on the quality of life of men in the Navy. I have worked for Captains that had direct access to him and saw how he made things happen. He refused to let the bureaucracy and the red tape keep from getting the job done including procuring vital supplies to our forces serving in Vietnam. We in the Navy owe him a great deal.

I'm glad everything is going good for you. I hope you're not pushing it too much. It is obvious to me from the picture you sent to me you are having BIG trouble doing push ups from the table. Your heart is the only one you're going to have and if you don't take care of it you may not see some of your plans materialize. I sincerely hope you will start to take better care of yourself and stop taking unnecessary and foolish chances.

The last several weeks (perhaps the last month) have been very tough. Work was extremely challenging with all types of problems having to be dealt with. In addition, while officiating a high school basketball game I pulled something in my leg and couldn't walk. The doctors think that I experienced a very bad pull calf muscle or else stretched a tendon. While running I heard a very loud snapping sound in the muscle and couldn't walk afterwards. It's now been two weeks and walking is no problem but running is still out of the question. I still feel considerable pain but I hope in another week I can go back and make some extra bucks.

I also mailed you some magazines. There's one about the Navy's A-6 aircraft. Please hold on to it for me. Having served with an A-6 Squadron I would like to keep it. Feel free to discard the others after your review or give them to the Judge for his displays.

It's about time I go back to work so I'll say goodbye for now. Please tell Dorothy hello and thank her for the nice letter she sent me. I don't ever recall receiving such a letter from her and it was very meaningful. I wish both of you the best that life has to offer and hope you take full advantage of the good days. God knows there's enough tough times we have to endure. Have a very