

*In Loving Memory of
John William "Zeke" Zettner*

May 21, 1927
March 30, 2008

Enclosure 21 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08

Zeke was born in Birmingham, Alabama, the only child of John Leonard Zettner and Emma Miller Zettner. After high school graduation, Zeke joined the United States Navy, at the age of 17.

Zeke served aboard the USS Lyman K. Swenson, a 2200-ton destroyer. He was deployed to the Far East, where he was engaged in vigorous combat activities, including the Inchon Invasion on September 15, 1950, in South Korea.

Shortly after the invasion, the six destroyers involved were designated as the "Sitting Ducks" because they did not leave their assigned positions for three days prior to the invasion, sitting there shooting it out with the enemy. The USS Lyman K. Swenson sailed home later, proudly flying the "Sitting Ducks" pennant.

Zeke was proud of his 22-year Naval career, which began in 1944 and ended in 1966, when he retired as a Chief Petty Officer (CPO E-7).



Zeke was married to Delores Watson Zettner (now deceased). They had three children, Bill, Adriene, and John, Jr., all of whom live in the San Diego area. After Zeke's retirement from the Navy, he worked in the floor covering business with his two sons. His daughter, Adriene, has held top-management positions with the Von's grocery company for thirty-one years. Adriene is like her father, always willing to help whenever and wherever she is needed. I am truly grateful to have her as a close friend.

Zeke and I met thirty years ago, in 1978. We were married on March 17, 1990, in the romantic "Fern Grotto" on the beautiful island of Kauai. We vacationed in Hawaii many times, and the joy and love we shared during those days will be with me forever.

We enjoyed attending the annual reunions with Zeke's fellow shipmates. The group always met in a different city, so we had a chance to visit new and interesting places together. We would look forward to the event for months before we left, and then reminisce and look at our pictures for months after we returned.

Zeke was my loving husband, but just as important, he was my best friend. He helped me in every way possible, always making sure I was all right.

Playing Santa Claus for the children of the families where I work was such fun, and was so Zeke!

List of Enclosures to DUCKS' Letter dated 15 October 2008:

1. RADM John Higgins letter re "extraordinary" heroism of Sitting DUCKS at Inchon 13-15 September 1950.
2. 13 May 1996 letter of Mr. Joe Carillo to SECDEF Perry.
3. Letter of 9 August 1995 from W. J. Sweet, Assistant Vice CNO (Acting) to Congressman Esteban Torres (CA).
4. Copy of envelope cover of DUCKS' 21 June 2007 certified letter to the CNO, rejected at Arlington address.
5. Copy of envelope cover of DUCKS' 5 July 2007 certified letter to the CNO, rejected at Arlington address.
6. Copy of receipt for DUCKS' certified letter dated 5 July 2007 to the CNO, received at Pentagon on 9 July 2007- MISROUTED.
7. Copy of Marine General Peter Pace's letter of 5 September 2006 to William Barnes.
8. (A) Letter from Richard Bowman to William Barnes dated 13 January 2004.
(B) Letter of 8 October 2003 White House Staff to Richard Bowman.
9. Photos of mine explosion damage suffered by USS MANSFIELD (DD-728) on 30 September 1950.
10. 24 July 2000 obituary of Navy hero Captain Joe Enright – shows how ARCHERFISH and the DUCKS faced unknown fates.
11. Secretary of the Army presents belated Korean War Tribute, and a Navy hero is awarded a Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" – Washington Post.
12. SECNAV Kimball's 1950 Citation awarding the DUCKS' NUC.
13. SECNAV England's 2003 Citation awarding all Navy and Marine units in Iraq and Kuwait a PUC.
14. NAVY TIMES, 17 November 2003 PUC Award announcement.
15. DUCKS' veterans view the 2003 PUC Award to Navy and Marine units in Iraq War.
16. Letter of March 2008, Mr. Richard Sienna to Captain William Barnes.
17. Senator John McCain's letter of 12 November 2004 to William Barnes.

18. Senator Barbara Mikulski's letter of 15 May 2006 to William Barnes.
19. White House Staff Member Desiree Thompson's 23 April 2003 letter to Captain William Barnes.
20. Mr. Don Snider of the LYMAN K. SWENSON Association writes 14 May 2008 letter to William Barnes.
21. Obituary of revered SWENSON Sitting DUCKS' veteran Zeke Zettner, who died on 30 March 2007.

NOTE: Many of these enclosures were sent in previous letters to the CNO, but none were ever mentioned or referenced by the Navy Department.

Footnotes:

- [1] Michael Barone, *The Annapolis Capital*, 11 August 2008.
- [2] *The News Leader*, Springfield, MO, 7 November 1995.
- [3] Jack Sauter, "Why Korea Was Forgotten," *Legion Magazine*, September 2003, Vol. 149, No. 3.
- [4] Op Cit pages 3-4.
- [5] Ibid pages 6-7.
- [6] Ibid pages 1-2.
- [7] Admiral Eugene Fluckey, "Thunder Below," University of Illinois 1992.
- [8] John O'Sullivan, *Imprimis*, June 2008, Hillsdale College.

Distribution List:

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