

**Retired Naval Officers
5205 Leesburg Pike, Suite 200
Falls Church, VA 22041**

October 22, 1991

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington. DC 20006

Dear Mr. President:

As part of the observances of the 50th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, it is fitting that our country rectify a regrettable injustice which has prevailed since that time. We refer to the unjust assignment of sole blame for the tragic attack to Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, USN, Commander-In-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Lieutenant General Walter C. Short, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces, Hawaii, and the resulting cruel stigma and humiliation to these officers and their families for the past 50 years.

Shortly after December 7, 1941 a Presidential Commission, chaired by Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts, was appointed to investigate the facts surrounding the Pearl Harbor attack. Reputable historians readily concede that the Commission conducted a hurried investigation, neglecting to review all available evidence and to obtain the testimony of many persons who could have provided substantive information. The Commission's report Issued in January 1942 was critical of Admiral Kimmel and Lieutenant General Short, charging them with "dereliction of duty." Although subsequent investigations discredited the Roberts Commission's findings, the Commission's report and attendant publicity have been the major factors in shaping public perception and preventing official action to correct the unfair treatment of Kimmel and Short.

Shortly after the Roberts Commission's report was issued, Kimmel and Short were forced into retirement. Under U.S. law at that time military officers could retire at a rank no higher than the senior authorized rank, which in the case of Admiral Kimmel was Rear Admiral and in the case of Lieutenant General Short was Major General, both two star ranks.

Following the Roberts Commission report and his retirement, Admiral Kimmel repeatedly requested that he be tried by a Military Court Martial so that a full legal hearing in his case could be conducted with an opportunity

for him to testify under oath and call witnesses in his behalf. A court martial was never convened even though the U.S. Congress repeatedly extended the statute of limitations time Units at Admiral Kimmel's urging to permit this to occur.

Finally, due to Admiral Kimmel's continued entreaties, the Congress directed the Navy Department to Investigate the Pearl Harbor attack and a Naval Court of Inquiry was convened in 1944. The Court of Inquiry cleared Admiral Kimmel of any improper performance with regards to his military responsibilities as Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. It is also significant to note that historical material which has become available in recent years irrefutably shows that Kimmel and Short were not provided information by their superiors in Washington which would have alerted them that an attack on Hawaii was imminent. We refer specifically to Japanese messages that were intercepted and decoded by both the Americans and the British.

After World War II, U.S. law was changed to permit military officers to retire at the highest rank held while on active duty, upon nomination by the President of the United States and confirmation by the Senate. For reasons never explained, neither Admiral Kimmel nor Lieutenant General Short was nominated for promotion, the only World War II officers not so advanced.

At this point in time no action by the U.S. Government can fully rectify the injustices to Admiral Kimmel and Lieutenant General Short. A partial atonement can be achieved by posthumously promoting these two officers to the ranks they held at the time of the attack, promotions to which they are entitled by law.

The following distinguished bodies have also passed resolutions recommending the posthumous promotions: The Naval Academy Alumni Association, the Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Foundation, and the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Association. Admiral Arleigh Burke, USN (Ret.), former Chief of Naval Operations, sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense in July 1991 recommending the posthumous promotion.

We the undersigned retired senior officers respectfully urge you to nominate to the U.S. Senate Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, USN for posthumous promotion to Admiral and Major General Walter C. Short, USA, for posthumous promotion to Lieutenant General.

Very respectfully,

Signature Page

Name, Rank, [highest held position]

Thomas H. Moorer Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CNO, C/JCS]	William J. Crowe, Jr. Admiral, USN (Ret.) [C/JCS]	James L. Holloway, III Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CNO]
Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CNO]	Thomas B. Hayward Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CNO]	Lee Bagett, Jr. Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCLANT]
David H. Bagley Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.) [Chief of Naval Personnel]	Worth H. Bagley Admiral, USN (Ret.) [Vice CNO]	Walter F. Boone Admiral, USN (Ret.) [Com Naval Forces E Atl]
William F. Bringle Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINC US Naval Forces Europe]	Ralph W. Cousins Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCLANT]	Donald C. Davis Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPACFLT]
Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.* Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.) [COM STAFF COLLEGE]	Sylvester R. Foley, Jr. Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPACFLT]	Noel A. M. Gayler Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPAC]
Charles D. Griffin Admiral, USN (Ret.) [COMSEVENTHFLT]	Huntington Hardisty Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPAC]	Ronald J. Hays Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPAC]
John J. Hyland Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPACFLT]	William P. Lawrence* Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.) [Chief of Naval Personnel]	Roy L. Johnson Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPACFLT]
Robert L. J. Long Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPAC]	Wesley L. McDonald Admiral, USN (Ret.) [COMUSFLTFORCOM]	Kinnaird R. McKee Admiral, USN (Ret.) [D/NAV NUC PRO]
Frederick H. Michaelis Admiral, USN (Ret.) [Chief of Naval Material]	David C. Richardson Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.) [COMSIXTHFLT]	Horacio Rivero, Jr. Admiral, USN (Ret.) [VCNO, Amb. to Spain]
Ulyssis S. G. Sharp, Jr. Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPAC]	Harold E. Shear Admiral, USN (Ret.) [VICE CNO]	William N. Small Admiral, USN (Ret.) [VICE CNO]
James B. Stockdale* Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.) [President Naval War College]	Stansfield Turner Admiral, USN (Ret.) [Dir Central Intelligence]	Maurice F. Weisner Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPAC]
Waldemar F. A. Wendt Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINC US Naval Forces Europe]	Steven A. White Admiral, USN (Ret.) [Chief of Naval Material]	Alfred J. Whittle Admiral, USN (Ret.) [Chief of Naval Material]
James "Ace" Lyons** Admiral, USN (Ret.) [CINCPACFLT]	*former POW	**Signed 9/15/06

Thomas H. Moorer
Thomas H. Moorer
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

William J. Cross, Jr.
William J. Cross, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

James L. Holloway, III
James L. Holloway, III
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

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

Thomas B. Hayward
Thomas B. Hayward
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Lee Baggett, Jr.
Lee Baggett, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

David H. Bagley
David H. Bagley
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Worth H. Bagley
Worth H. Bagley
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Walter F. Boone
Walter F. Boone
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

William F. Bringle
William F. Bringle
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Ralph W. Cousins
Ralph W. Cousins
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Donald C. Davis
Donald C. Davis
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.
Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Sylvester R. Foley, Jr.
Sylvester R. Foley, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Noel A. Gayler
Noel A. N. Gayler
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Charles D. Griffin
Charles D. Griffin
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Huntington Hardisty
Huntington Hardisty
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Ronald J. Hays
Ronald J. Hays
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

John J. O'Hara
John J. O'Hara
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

William P. Lawrence
William P. Lawrence
Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Roy G. Johnson
Roy G. Johnson
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Robert L. J. Long
Robert L. J. Long
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Wesley L. McDonald
Wesley L. McDonald
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Kinnaird R. McLee
Kinnaird R. McLee
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Frederick H. Michaelis
Frederick H. Michaelis
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

David C. Richardson
David C. Richardson
Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Horacio Rivero, Jr.
Horacio Rivero, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Ulysses S. G. Sharp, Jr.
Ulysses S. G. Sharp, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Harold E. Shear
Harold E. Shear
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

William H. Smail
William H. Smail
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

James B. Stockdale
James B. Stockdale
Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Stansfield Turner
Stansfield Turner
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Harold F. Weisner
Harold F. Weisner
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Jaldemar F. A. Wendt
Jaldemar F. A. Wendt
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Steven A. White
Steven A. White
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Alfred J. Whittle, Jr.
Alfred J. Whittle, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

James "Ace" Lyons, Jr.
James "Ace" Lyons, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)