



GEORGE BUSH

August 2016

To The Officers and Crew of USS ZUMWALT (DDG 1000):

A war hero, a patriot, a visionary, a humanitarian--these are but a few of the traits that defined Admiral Elmo R. "Bud" Zumwalt, Jr. Bud Zumwalt was an enormously talented leader who cared deeply for his sailors, earning him respect, admiration and love from those who served with him. His visionary and principled leadership makes this unique warship a fitting tribute to a great American hero.

The most technologically advanced destroyer ever built, USS ZUMWALT (DDG-1000) will give our Navy numerous fighting advantages in 21st Century Naval warfare. It is important we maximize these advantages by also providing the means by which those who serve onboard her can achieve their greatest potential to do so.

Barbara and I salute the crew of USS ZUMWALT, the talented designers, shipbuilders and technicians who have made this ship the most advanced in the world. We also thank the Zumwalt family and the Commissioning Committee who have ensured the enduring legacy of Bud Zumwalt by establishing an educational Crew and Legacy Fund. Having known Bud personally, I know that he would be immensely proud of this creative initiative to benefit his sailors and their families.

Barbara and I wish the crew Godspeed and send our best wishes to the Zumwalt family and to all attending the commissioning ceremony. May God bless this ship, the United States Navy and our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bush".