

John C. Reilly
Ottumwa, Iowa, Pre-Flight Class 9-46

COMMANDER AIR FORCE ATLANTIC FLEET
NAVAL AIR STATION, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
MAIL ADDRESS: C/O FPO BRANCH, NORFOLK 11, VIRGINIA

December 2, 1949

Ensign John C. Reilly, U.S.N.
Attack Squadron FORTY-FOUR

Dear Reilly,

The recent decision of the Navy Department to terminate your career as a regular officer by ordering you to inactive duty has been a subject of serious concern to me. Together with certain members of my staff I have called on the Chief of Naval Personnel and his policy makers in Washington to inquire into the matter. I regret that no alteration in this decision could be made as it was based upon a definite cut in the predicted officer personnel allowances for the Regular Naval Establishment that resulted from the dictates of Congress as expressed in appropriations.

While nothing I can say will materially lessen the disappointment and feeling of anxiety you now feel, I want to assure you that your release to inactive duty occurs, through no fault or shortcoming of your own, and to assure you that the Navy Department in reaching this decision was fully aware of the consequences to you personally. The decision was made with deep regret by Rear Admiral Sprague while he was the Chief of Naval Personnel. He was fully cognizant of the influences that helped mold your desire to make the Navy your life career and he was familiar with the splendid record your group have made during the period of your service. The assurance that you have served the Navy and the Nation well by making a definite contribution to National Security will, I hope, be a source of inward pride to you.

May you carry with you into civilian life the feeling of fraternity and esprit de corps that binds all wearers of the Naval uniform both active and inactive. I hope that you will continue to identify yourself with the Navy and particularly that you will see fit to take an active part in the Naval Reserve.

In closing I want to express my Personal regret that you are leaving my command and active Naval service. I wish you and yours happiness and success in whatever you undertake.

Cordially yours,

/s/ FELIX B. STUMPF
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy