



18 January 2002

The Honorable Walter B. James
U.S House of Representatives
422 Cameron Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

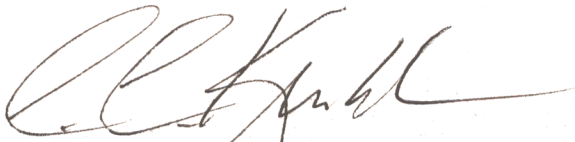
Dear Congressman Jones,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your bill proposing to change the title of the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps. I heartily endorse this bill as an initiative that appropriately honors all of the superb men and women of the Naval Service – sailors and Marines.

While it is often difficult to achieve clarity and eliminate confusion in the titles of the senior leadership in the Department of Defense, this bill does exactly that. I applaud its simplicity. The Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps is the civilian leader of each of these storied warfighting military services. Just as the Secretary's leadership responsibilities to both services are clear, so should his/her title clearly describe those responsibilities to the men and women he/she leads, and to the American people they defend.

This bill is a perfectly logical evolution in a series of legislative initiatives designed, in part, to clarify and codify the role of the U.S Marine Corps that began with Defense Reorganization in the post-war period of the late 1940's. I enthusiastically support both its spirit and intent. Thank you for your initiative and your continuing patriotic support to our great nation.

Semper Fidelis



General Charles C. Krulak (Ret)
31st Commandant/United States Marine Corps