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July 9, 1981

Dear Commander Johnstone:

I am pleased to provide you with a message for the 35th National Convention of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America from President Reagan.

Your desire to offer your talents to the U.S. Navy at a time when world tensions mount is certainly a tribute to your loyalty and sets a fine example for other Americans. In order to be eligible for the Naval Reserves, an individual must be able to complete 20 years of duty (active duty and Reserve time can be combined) prior to his or her 63rd birthday. In addition, there are specific age requirements for officer programs. These requirements are based on law and Navy policy and have proven to be in the best interests of the Navy, as well as the individual concerned. Unfortunately, selection parameters, such as age, periodically preclude the selection of highly motivated and capable volunteers such as yourself. However, you can be assured that your contributions as the National Commander of the U.S. Navy Seabee Veterans of America are equally as important to the welfare of our country.

May I extend my very best wishes for a productive and successful conference.

Sincerely,

Dodie Livingston
Director
Office of Special
Presidential Messages

Mr. Jim Johnstone
National Commander
Navy Seabee Veterans of America
934 Osborne Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

DL:Wells:lrc
cc: H.vonDamm/Wells/M.Blackwell/CF
EVENT: JULY 30
Draft information furnished by Dept. of Defense

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