

Replied

JAMES L. HALL CO.

INCORPORATED

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November 8, 1966

Vice Admiral E. P. Forrestel, U.S.N. (Ret.)
105 Ravine Forest Drive
Lake Bluff, Illinois

Dear Admiral Forrestel:

Raymond Spruance, a USNA classmate and for many years, a valued friend, was good enough to recently send to Mrs. Hall and me, a copy of your excellent book "Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, U.S.N., A Study in Command".

We have read it with the greatest interest and pleasure. My sincerest congratulations to you for the superb detailed and easy to read composition of this book. You are truly an accomplished Naval Officer, in that you can compile and write so ably, as well as being so efficient in your Naval career.

Our most grateful thanks are due you for writing this book. Mrs. Hall and I have been enjoying more intimate friendship with Margaret and Raymond since their coming to Pebble Beach. Our growing admiration of them has made us more increasingly concerned that their great modesty was preventing the world from knowing of the Admiral's personal character and the value of his wonderful accomplishments for our Country and his real worth to us all.

So it is a great satisfaction to us that you have so skillfully written this book. It is not only a work of long, arduous, detailed research, but a labor of love and admiration for the Admiral in which we agree and heartily join you.

I can add just a little yarn, so typical about the Admiral, which I heard not long ago, with much interest and pleasure. You may have known or remember Randall Davies, a distinguished artist and portrait painter. He did a portrait of Secretary of Defense Forrestal which I believe hangs in the Pentagon. Randall told me he was a schoolmate of Raymond Spruance when they were youngsters in New Jersey. During those days Randall said Raymond was always the peacemaker in the childrens' quarrels. Randall said he often thought of that contrast later on, when Raymond's hard driving victories in the Pacific War became public news.

So thank you for writing that book about our "silent" Admiral in what was sometimes called the "Silent Service". It is a book that I feared was never going to be written. It shows so well in these days of "trumpeting public relations" how a quiet, retiring, unassuming man can become, when it is necessary, one of history's greatest fighting Naval Leaders.

It may interest you to know that our secretary who has for years seen the picture of Admiral Spruance and his Staff, in which you are included, and, which the Admiral

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gave to me and hangs in my office, recently thoughtfully gave me an additional copy of your book, not knowing that we already had the one sent to us by the Admiral. Also, that I have sent for 10 copies of your book to give to our sons, nephews and friends whom I am sure will value it.

It would be a pleasure for me if some day our paths might cross so I could thank you in person for writing this book. With warm regards and best wishes for your continued health and happiness, I am

Cordially yours,


JAMES L. HALL

JLH:m