

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Eleventh Coast Guard District

Union Bank Bldg.
400 Ocean Gate
Long Beach, CA 90822-5399
Staff Symbol (OSR)
(213) 499-5370
FTS 984-5370

3500
30 September 1987

Mr. David Burch
Starpath School of Navigation
Mariner's Square
1900 N. Northlake Way
Seattle, Washington 98103-9051

Dear Mr. Burch:

Thank you for your invaluable assistance to us during Mr. Ed Gillett's recent trans-pacific kayak voyage. As you know we were receiving considerable pressure from Mr. Ed Gillett Sr. and his wife to search for their son. They had taken their plight to the media and appealed all the way up to the President of the United States. Your evaluation helped us to justify the decision, already made, not to conduct a search for Mr. Gillett who we firmly did not consider in distress. Your estimate of Mr. Gillett's arrival time was a remarkable feat and is impressive testimony of your skill as a navigator. The amount of time and effort you devoted to help someone you had not even met also shows tremendous humanitarian concern for a fellow mariner.

I am returning the information booklet you sent to us with this correspondence. Thank you again for your assistance and a job well done. I wish you the best of luck in the future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of G. R. Siddall in cursive script.

G. R. SIDDALL

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Search and Rescue Division
By direction of the District Commander