Finding Aid for the Russell Knowles Vietnam War correspondence collection
2015.069.w.r

Lauren Menges
Center for American War Letters Archives
12/2/2016
Leatherby Libraries
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Orange, CA 92866
speccoll@chapman.edu
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Abstract: This collection contains 38 correspondence written by Lieutenant Russell Knowles, Jr. to his family during the Vietnam War.

Knowles’ letters describe his time in training on the USS Energy in Long Beach and San Diego, CA. Knowles did not serve in Vietnam (at least during the time he was writing his letters). The USS Energy went on a tour to Newport, Oregon and to Seattle for the World Fair. His letters mostly concern his family and what they are doing back home. At first he is writing about buying a ring and getting engaged to a woman named Jennie, but he eventually breaks the engagement off. Later he is engaged to be married to a woman named Weeza. He moved to Monterey to go to school to study meteorology and oceanography. Letter dated May 27, 1962: Knowles describes watching a press conference with the “second astronauts.” He says, “We are really amazing animals. Think about having people in space. That is a really great technical achievement.”

Letter postmarked November 1962: Knowles describes what it was like during the Cuban missile crisis (he said it was no different than any other day) and gives his opinions about Castro. He also says he is planning to vote straight Republican and encourages his family to do so to defeat Ted Kennedy. He refers to California as “Democratic California.”

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This collection is open for research.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition
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Preferred Citation
[Item title, Box number, Folder number], Russell Knowles Vietnam War correspondence (2015.069.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975
Bullard, Joan K.