



Embassy of the United States of America

Canberra, Australia

RECEIVED

December 31, 1998

5 JAN 1999  
2614

5/1  
Mr. Clive Davidson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
P O Box 218  
Civic ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Davidson:

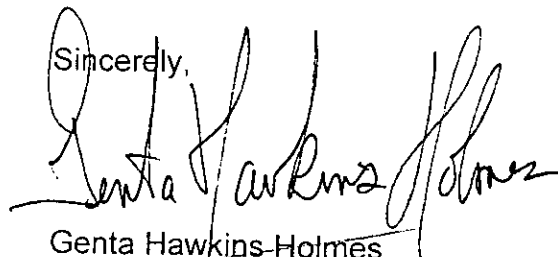
Please extend my heartfelt appreciation and respect to the remarkable Australians involved with the rescue operations related to the Sydney to Hobart yacht race. Their heroism truly captured the attention of the world and earned its applause.

One of those rescued was an American, John Campbell. In a conversation today, he told me how grateful and deeply impressed he is for the effective teamwork of the rescue personnel. His is one of many success stories for which you and your colleagues deserve our profound thanks.

Having been present at the outset of the race on Boxing Day, I had a great personal interest in the race and shared the concerns felt all over this nation when things began to go wrong. We know that the outcome might have been much worse indeed but for the exceptional work of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and each of your dedicated rescue workers.

My personal thanks and best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,



Genta Hawkins-Holmes  
Ambassador