

rbakron3

From: rbakron3
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 5:15 PM
To: timothy.gallaudet@noaa.gov
Subject: The "Alabama Thing"

Sir:

Right now I am embarrassed to say that I ever served in the U.S.Navy. My father was a naval officer who served in WW II and the Korean War. I left university to enlist in the U.S.N. during the Viet Nam War. I served in the Naval Security Group and worked to find and cause to be brought down agents of foreign enemies, among other duties.

What causes my shame? The thought that a scientist and a naval officer, a rear admiral no less, would stand by and not speak out publicly when professional colleagues were thrown under the bus by an anonymously posted Twitter message from NOAA. Apparently it was published just to support a political agenda and the wounded pride of a politician.

Or perhaps you are, in fact, the author of that tweet. Author or not shame on you. Your inaction, or perhaps direct action, brings NOAA into disrepute, impugns the honor and integrity of professional scientists who work for public good, and safety, and politicizes an agency that has been politically independent for its over 200 year history.

There is still time for you to reclaim your honor and restore the good names and professional reputations of your colleagues and NOAA. I learned early on in the Navy that one does what is right without regard for any personal cost. It is the only way to keep one's honor and preserve the honor of one's unit.

Please, sir. Speak up. Your position within NOAA, your professional status, and your experience will help right the wrongs to your colleagues within your agency.

I write all this with true respect for your position, your rank, and your history. I know that it is harsh, and I never imagined that I would ever rebuke an officer, active duty or retired. Sometimes life demands hard things of men who strive to have honor and to keep it. I cannot but speak out now. What will you do?

Sincerely,

Richard B. Mounts, Jr.
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio