

November 29, 2014

Following is my Response to VA Failures to which veterans of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion have been asked to comment on.

Response to VA Failures

The men and women to join the military and have successful careers, be it two or more years, stand for integrity, courage, dedication, fidelity, and loyalty. For those of us who have served and are now serving, we do so out of love for God and country, to protect those we love from foreign and domestic violence, and to preserve the freedoms that Americans uniquely enjoy as those around the world have fewer and fewer freedoms.

The systemic problems of the VA stem from a lack of leadership from the very top of government all the way down to the lowest employee. When you have leaders who do not understand the role of the military, which is not to wage war, but to protect our country and freedoms; and when there are leaders who would rather take care of themselves and personal agendas, rather than their nation and its people, this attitude infuses itself into the everyday workings of the Veterans Administrations at all levels.

True accountability needs to be called for and not the placid lip-service that has been given that word by those in power. As in Benghazi, every person from the President down to the pilots who could have responded had a duty to respond. The stand-down order was illegal and should have been ignored. Every person in that chain of command had the duty to respond regardless of the consequences. The same holds true for the VA. Every person from the Secretary for Veterans Affairs all the way down to the maintenance personnel, have the duty to take care of our service men and women to the best of their ability.

Just as an RN had the duty to tell a doctor when a procedure or prescription is not proper, so did the directors, supervisors, schedulers, and medical personnel have the duty to stand up and tell their superiors and those above that the actions they took were wrong.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Center for Ethics in Health Care (NCEHC) is the VA's primary office for addressing the complex ethical issues that arise in patient care. Should this continue, then either the VA or the NCEHC need to revise these ethics and every employee of the VA needs to read them and receive instruction in what they mean.

Additionally like the Hippocratic Oath, the Enlistment and Officer oaths, every employee of the VA should be required to take a similar oath with regard to the management and healthcare of our veterans.

Meanwhile, every person who had knowledge of the delayed appointment and other “injurious” type activities that have or are taking place in any of the VA facilities should be fired regardless of what degree of knowledge and/or participation in such activities. The only exceptions that should be allowed are for those who brought such activities to light with their supervisor, or others in the chain of command.

Submitted by:

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