

**STATEMENT OF  
EDWARD C. MAZZA  
JUDGE ADVOCATE, DEPARTMENT OF OREGON  
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
BEFORE THE  
CAPITAL ASSETS REALIGNMENT FOR ENHANCED SERVICES COMMISSION  
WHITE CITY, OREGON  
OCTOBER 3, 2003**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the members of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and its Auxiliary, we are pleased to express our views on the proposed Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Market Plans for this area in VISN 20.

For over 50 years, the VA facility in White City has faithfully served our Nation's veterans. Rising from the desert in 1941, Camp White served as a training facility, in preparation for war, for the Army's 91<sup>st</sup> Division. At one time it held over 2,000 German prisoners-of-war. In 1945, Camp White became a Navy Hospital until the Veterans Administration (VA) acquired the property and designated the facility as a Domiciliary in 1949. Over the years, the mission and the goals of the "Dom" changed to fulfill the needs of the ever-increasing veteran population, until the mission was defined with a new name: VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics (VA SORCC).

The VA SORCC is VA's only freestanding rehabilitation center, serving both regional and national resources for underserved special populations, e.g., homeless, chronically mentally ill, and substance abuse, providing residential treatment in psychiatry, addictions, medicine, bio-psychosocial, physical, and vocational rehabilitation. The VA SORCC provides veterans with individualized, compassionate, and high quality care. The primary outpatient medical and mental health care is offered to veterans living in the Southern Oregon and Northern California region. The VA SORCC serves inpatients from all over the United States and 40 percent come to the White City VA SORCC from outside of the VISN 20 marketplace. The service area for outpatient care includes Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lake Counties, though additional veterans receive care at the White City VA SORCC from Siskiyou, and other counties in northern California. The outpatient service area for the VA SORCC area includes over 40,000 veterans.

Closure of the White City facility would displace current domiciliary patients and patients being transferred from the 52-bed domiciliary at Portland VAMC, and subsequently disrupts their families. Furthermore, the comprehensive long-term care needs of many of our veterans would be affected.

As a former patient myself, I've been through twenty-three 30-day "treatment" programs. The only result was that I quit drinking for 30 days each time. Afterwards, I went back to the only things I knew, the booze and the streets. In 1972, I became an inpatient at a VA Medical Center, and went through six months of treatment and rehabilitation. For the first time, I felt I was receiving help from people with genuine concerns for my well-being. I wasn't just a face pushed through routine programs. I received treatment geared toward my needs, whatever they

were, and I was given the time and the means to fulfill those needs. I have had many years of out-patient follow-ups but, just like many other former patients at the White City facility—like Joe Fidura, John Murnane, Tommy Imel, Ken Durham, and literally thousands of other veterans—I am productive, I have people that love and respect me, and I’m not a burden to anyone.

There is no other facility in the continental United States that can provide the long-term (over 30 days) rehabilitation needs with the efficiency of the White City VA SORCC. This is the only facility between San Francisco and Portland with any viable rehabilitation program. The White City facility’s location splits the more that 600-mile distance between these two major metropolitan centers. We are located on the Interstate 5 corridor with easy access and are less than 5 miles from an International airport. The population in the demographic area of Southern Oregon is growing quickly. With the escalation of conflicts in our war on terrorism the veteran population will grow exponentially. I have heard proposals discussing the “farming out” of medical and rehabilitation treatment for our veterans to the private sector. It is the VA’s responsibility to care for the medical and psychological needs of our returning soldiers and airmen. The quality of VA care is equivalent to, or better than, care in any private or public health care system. VA provides specialized health care services—blind rehabilitation, spinal cord injury care, posttraumatic stress disorder treatment, and prosthetic services—that are unmatched in the private sector. Moreover, VHA has been cited as the nation’s leader in tracking and minimizing medical errors. Our veterans deserve no less than the best.

As part of the CARES process, VA facilities are being evaluated to ensure that VA delivers more care to more veterans in places where veterans need it the most. On a national level, DAV firmly believes that realignment of capital assets is critical to the long-term health and viability of the entire VA system. However, we have been carefully monitoring the process and are dedicated to ensuring the needs of special disability groups are addressed and remain a priority throughout the CARES process. As CARES has moved forward, we have continually emphasized that all specialized disability programs and services for spinal cord injury, mental health, prosthetics, and blind rehabilitation should be maintained at a current level, as required by law. Additionally, we will remain vigilant and monitor the VA to ensure their focus is on the most important element in the process, enhancement of services and timely delivery of high quality health care for our nation’s sick and disabled veterans.

Appendix K of the Draft National CARES Plan indicates many categories for which adequate projections and space needs **could not** be determined. These include Inpatient Residential Rehabilitation, Inpatient Domiciliary, and any negative gaps in Outpatient Mental Health.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, these are the programs that make up the majority of the care the VA SORCC provides to our Nation’s veterans. I don’t doubt that you share the conviction that our fighting men and women deserve the very best care possible, so I must ask you; Why are we considering realignment of a facility that meets many of those needs—in an area where those in need will continue to grow—when, if anything, we should be considering the expansion of the medical capabilities and services of the White City VA SORCC?

In closing, the local DAV members of VISN 20 sincerely appreciate the CARES Commission for holding this hearing and for its interest in our concerns. We deeply value the advocacy of the Commission on behalf of America's service-connected disabled veterans and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to present our views on these important proposals.

STATEMENT OF  
THERESA JEAN LEONARDO  
OCCUPATIONAL INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR  
EAGLE POINT HIGH SCHOOL~SCHOOL DISTRICT # 9  
BEFORE THE  
CAPITAL ASSETS REALIGNMENT FOR ENHANCED SERVICES COMMISSION  
WHITE CITY, OREGON  
OCTOBER 3, 2003

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission:

My name is Theresa Leonardo and I am the Occupational Internship Coordinator for Eagle Point High School. I am pleased to be here representing Eagle Point High School "School To Work" Program; the **ONLY** "School To Work Program" in the nation, located on station at a Department of Veterans Affairs Facility.

This partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Eagle Point High School originated in 1982. Originally implemented as an Alternative "School To Work" Program for at-risk students, it has transitioned over the years into an Occupational Internship Program, which is available to all students who are of 15 years of age or older.

Eagle Point High School and School District 9 serve several strong rural communities with a significantly lower socio-economic status than average within Jackson County. Eagle Point School District # 9 is geographically isolated having no available public transportation between Medford and Eagle Point.

In this program students are placed in jobsites on station at this facility, after they have received an orientation learning how to write a resume, and interview for their job position. On a daily basis they are in direct contact with veterans at various capacities ranging from a friendly hello as they pass in the halls, to eating lunch together in the canteen, and helping them with services at their job sites. We also participate with various activities such as the POW Ceremony, Stand Down, Veterans Day, Christmas Activities and the Korean War Service Award Ceremony.

The integration of work and learning tends to increase student motivation, and may result in staying in school and improvement in academic performance. Involvement in "School To Work" programs provides opportunities for enhanced relationships with the veterans, the community and potential employers, while earning high school elective credits as they learn invaluable job skills.

Work-based learning programs can promote continued education after high school by being articulated with college cooperative education programs. For example: This past school year, I worked with nursing services here at the

Department of Veterans Affairs and staff at Rogue Community College; forming a three-way partnership, creating a new opportunity for students that are at least 16 years of age, interested in the nursing field. A five-week fast track Certified Nursing Assistant course was developed.

Last school year two students completed this course, passing the state board exam, and are now Certified Nursing Assistants (also known as CNA'S). Students were presented with funds from four volunteer agencies involved at this station. These funds purchased books and supplies and the fee for the state board exam. This is just another sign of the true partnership between Eagle Point High School and The Department of Veterans Affairs benefiting both students and veterans. Community organizations donated in support of this program as well, paying their tuition.

There is a dire need for nurses in our nation; we are opening a door to students to begin their career in the nursing field at a young age. In speaking with these students you can feel their excitement, motivation, and eagerness to move to the next level of their education. This year class begins in May and is already full.

Students are learning history of the various wars fought first hand from the veterans. They are also learning the importance of giving back to those who fought for their freedom. In this file folder I hold handwritten testimony from students enrolled in this program for just three weeks. This program has already positively impacted these students.

Christina writes; "It is also a great place to learn about our history, the people who are here have a lot of history. Something we would never be able to do at just our school."

Tory writes; "I really enjoy working with the Veterans especially at the P.O.W. Ceremony and Stand Down."

Jennifer writes; " Working at the VA also makes me eligible for several scholarships to continue my education. The people that I work with help me out in many ways; they are my mentors. Volunteering for the Veterans activities here at the VA gives me a sense of gratitude and I am thankful for this program and this facility."

Brandon writes; "Even though I haven't been here very long the Veterans have touched my heart and I really enjoy talking to them. Working here has given me time to value the veterans."

The continual support and mentoring that seems to always be present, for the students enrolled in this program, is most impressive.

In conclusion; This "School To Work Program" could be held in any building at any school and still succeed. But the most important part of this program **IS** the fact that it is held on station at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I ask that it be kept in mind when reviewing testimonies, of the invaluable opportunity that this

unique partnership provides to high school students at this facility. This partnership is most impressive and beneficial to everyone involved, veterans, students, employees and the surrounding community alike.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOOD MORNING MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

I am Philip Caldwell, Past Dept. Commander of the DAV, Dept. of Oregon. At this time I would like to express the views of our local DAV Chapter and its Auxiliary concerning the proposed Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services(CARES) Market Plans for VISN 20.

When the DAV was founded more than 80 years ago, it dedicated itself to a single purpose; building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families. In doing this, preservation of the integrity of the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system has been and still is of the utmost importance to the DAV and our members. In our local area, the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinic(SORCC) has been the centralized location for short term and most especially long term health care for our veterans.

I am very distressed at the discussion of the possible closing of the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinic (SORCC). I know that concerns have been expressed over the safety of these buildings in the event of a strong earthquake and I feel that these concerns are being used primarily as an excuse to close this facility. There is not another Veterans facility like this in the entire country. The SORCC has the ability to house approximately 900 veterans and serves as a hospital and medical clinic for thousands more in the Oregon and extreme Northern California areas. The veterans who live in these areas are, in many cases, hundreds of miles from the SORCC, but that is still much closer than the next nearest VA clinic. In addition to our local areas, there are many veterans coming from all over the country since the SORCC is the only facility with a true long term care program for any number of problems including substance abuse and PTSD.

I coordinate the drivers for the DAV transportation system out of the Brookings/Crescent City area and we travel an average of 2,500 to 3,000 miles every month taking veterans to the SORCC. Many other veterans are capable of getting their own transportation to the SORCC but it is still the closest facility for them to get the care they need. Each year Congress increases the budget for the VA including that for care of veterans. In recent years, however, the increase has failed to be enough to cover the actual increase in costs to care for these veterans. Now, you want to close one of the most important facilities for veterans in our area. Where are these men

and women supposed to get care? How far do you expect them to travel? Many are elderly and most are disabled and traveling a long distance to a facility is a tremendous hardship. I have heard talk about requiring the veterans to pay a deductible for their care and more co-payments for the prescriptions. There are many veterans who do not sign up for treatment because they cannot afford these costs even though they may seem so small to many of us.

It is well known that the WWII veterans are dying at a rate of approximately 1,000 per day but, as my daughter reminds me, her generation of veterans from Viet Nam are getting older every day and their injuries and problems from that war are becoming more apparent as they grow older. Where are the facilities going to be to take care of them? I currently have two nephews in Iraq. They are brothers in their second hitch of Army service and if one of them is seriously wounded, where will they get their care? Who wants to be the one to say to them that even though they may be so wounded that they cannot hold a job, they cannot get the care from the VA that was promised them? And how are you going to get future generations of people to enlist to serve their country when they realize their country doesn't even appreciate their service enough to take care of them if they are injured? Instead of reducing the amount of care that is offered to our veterans, we should be expanding it as the number of veterans needing care is expanding.

I have been proud to be an American for nearly 79 years and I was proud to serve my country during WWII but I am ashamed that the people who represent this nation in Congress cannot figure out a budget that cuts out some of the unnecessary spending in order to allow for the very important expenses of taking care of the veterans who are responsible for the freedoms we enjoy every day.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak to you today and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Philip Caldwell  
Past Commander  
Dept. of Oregon  
16377 Hadley Lane  
Brookings, OR 97415  
541-469-0285

Testimony by the Honorable Richard A Holt  
before the CARES COMMISSION,  
Medford, Oregon  
October 3, 2003

Regarding the closure of U.S.Veteran's Health Care Facility at  
White City, Oregon (DOM)

Thank you for this opportunity to state my reasons why I am  
opposed to closure of any part of our Domiciliary.

I personally have several dogs in the fight.

First, my brother served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> airborne and while  
parachuting down over Anzio in the Second World War, he was  
raked by machine gun fire. He was hit in the legs, back, and a  
hole was put through the palm of his hand. He required over 8  
months in a facility much like our own White City Veteran's Care  
facility. It is through this experience that I learned the  
importance of such care to our vets.

Second, now I have a son who is a Naval Officer that, if injured,  
god forbid, would have the chance to be taken care of in a  
facility close to his friends and family.

As a former county commissioner, I learned not only the  
importance of what the Dom means to our veterans but what it  
means to our local economy. Allow me to site some of the  
economic benefits here locally.

- The Dom is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest employer in Jackson County.

- There are over 100 local vendors who rely on the Dom to sell their products. Each of these vendors has many employees whose families count on the Dom.
- Our local Veteran's Service Office, which the county funds to assist our veterans and their families, recovered over \$29,405.38 worth of benefits that our local veterans were due but did not receive in 2001 and 2002. These funds not only help our veterans live the lives they deserve but have the added benefit of resonating throughout our local economy.
- Our veteran's office, which I still believe is understaffed, serviced more than 4332 veterans and their widows in the same time period. New claims brought in \$5,341,770.
- Not to mention that there are over 17,000 other vendors nationwide who sell to our Dom. Pretty soon that adds up to one heck of a lot of people who have jobs depending on keeping our VA facility open.

Last year the Dom saw 554 Vets and Widows more than the previous year. Just think about how that number will increase when our service men and women return from Bosnia, Afghanistan, Korea, Iraq, and all the places we haven't heard we are in yet.

We currently have a new generation of soldiers we have put in harm's way to defend our rights to stand up in an open forum such as this and voice our concerns.

When these heroes arrive home, will we thank them by telling them that while they served us so bravely in our time of need, we are not going to help them in their time of need? Will we be

nowhere to be found? Will we be unwilling and uncaring enough of our own freedom to not return the service to those who secured our freedoms in the first place?

Remember that over 95% of the people that the Dom serves come from a hundred mile radius of the facility. This means that it will be OUR children and loved ones that we will turn away.

While we spend BILLIONS of dollars on a segment of population in the Middle East who have been killing each other for thousands of years, we cannot provide for the well being of people who are currently risking their lives to provide a good night sleep for you and me.

I am ashamed, (extended pause). I am ashamed that we are spending billions of dollars on a people who do not want our involvement in the first place, and we are standing here considering the closing of a facility designed to benefit those who are in harms way as we speak.

Let us take a moment to consider our current condition:

Why are we currently spending billions of dollars in the Middle East?

Because we are concerned for their freedom and liberty???

They were free to exercise their customs and freedoms as they saw fit.....until we arrived.

Because we are concerned about a terrorist threat???

Let us not forget that in this case, the chicken came well before the egg!! The terrorist threat certainly did not evolve

because of our lack of influence in that particular hemisphere...  
It is because of our interference we were attacked....

Instead of spending billions of dollars on a people who only want us to leave them alone, why don't we simply leave them alone?

The billions of dollars we are getting ready to spend to fuel the fires of hatred toward this nation for generations to come could be better spent here at home to benefit those who are trying to support and co-habitate in the American Dream.

The simple answer to the simple question of why are we involved over there is OIL.

We have sold the perception that we require their resources to sustain our way of life. To that end we are willing to expend countless billions of dollars and risk the lives of thousands of Americans and continue to antagonize the war with terrorism that will never reach a conclusion.

**WE DO NOT NEED THEIR OIL!!**

**WE DO NOT NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR AFFAIRS!!**

The answer to our current Terrorist dilemma is to give them exactly what they want.....LEAVE THEM ALONE.

Save the resources and human life and **PULL OUR TROOPS THE HELL OUR OF THERE!!**

Stop funding of the very terrorists that are attacking us by stopping the purchase of their oil.  
**MAKE NO MISTAKE....THIS IS IN NO WAY TO BE CONSIDERED ISOLATIONISM!!!**

We are not leaving of our own accord but at the request of the people of this region and at the realization that we are no longer capable of funding such grand endeavors!!

If, after we have complied with the wishes of these people, they continue to attack our nation, we will be completely justified to take any measure we deem necessary to eliminate the threat.

If this nation cut its reliance on foreign fuels by 10%, we would no longer have to flush billions of dollars on a campaign that will only result in generational conflict that has no end.

I have the capability to reduce our nation's fuel consumption by 40% and help the oil companies to realize a profit today! I have the solution to our funding problems.....today!

I have the solution to our terrorist problems....today!

I have the solution to our fuel problems....today!!

By closing this facility we contiuene to send the message to those who serve this great nation that we do not and will not care for them. As we continue to send this message, it will become harder and harder to solicit the support of future generations. In no short order, we will be incapable of defending our way of life and it too will go the way of all the great civilizations before us.

We have established a dangerous precedent of capitalizing everyone else in the world and the end result is that they all hate us for it.

\* SUBMIT LETTER FROM MRS.  
JUNE CRAWFORD FOR  
THE RECORD

We have got to change our methodology and start caring more for those at home.

If we shore the foundation of our house, it will not divide against itself; but grow strong enough to withstand any pressure put upon it.

Let's explore our options. Let's present these options as a unified party. Let's make a difference.....

While Sadam and Bin Laden offer plastic cards for entry into heaven to their terrorists, our GI's receive a "dog tag" in case they are wounded or killed. I'm beginning to think the ID tag was appropriately named since we seem to be treating the men and women who serve us with less and less respect. This tag I wear today (show) I believed to be my insurance policy in case I was injured. Lets not renig on our commitment by closing any part of the DOM. If anything, please expand the vital services they perform.

Break the chain....just say NO to closing this facility!!!

Thank you

AUGUST 28, 2003

MR RICK HOLT

RE: CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE  
WHITE CITY DOM CLOSURE  
AND FAMILY INFO.

DEAR RICK HOLT:

SURE ENJOYED OUR CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR VETERANS AND THEIR NEEDS TO  
KEEP THE DOM OPEN.

BECAUSE OF MY FAMILY BEING INVOLVED IN ALL OUR WARS, I FEEL VERY  
EMOTIONAL ABOUT VETERANS.

THIS LETTER YOU ASKED FOR PRAYERFULLY, I WILL BE ABLE TO CONVEY TO YOU.

MY FATHER, JACK F HORN, SERVED IN THE ARMY AND ALSO, WAS A FIGHTER IN THE  
RING FOR THEM, AT A VERY EARLY AGE. LATER, DAD HELPED MR. HARRISON START  
THE PONTIAC GARAGE IN SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA. DAD SERVED AS A RESERVE  
PILOT FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFFS AERO SQUADREN, UNDER JAMES  
MUSSICK. DAD ALSO, FLEW OUR MOST DECORATED MAN IN WWII, AUDIE MURPHY TO  
HIS APPOINTMENTS WHEN HE WAS IN THE MOVIES. DURING WWII DAD ALSO,  
PATROLLED OUR WATER FACILITIES IN SANTA ANA ON FOOT.

MY FATHER-IN-LAW, ROBERT MILTON CRAWFORD, WAS IN THE ARMY DURING WWI.  
HE WAS WOUNDED IN FRANCE. VIRGIL AND I HAVE HIS DISCHARGE PAPERS SIGNED  
BY "PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON."

VIRG AND I HAVE BEEN MARRIED 55 YEARS IN NOVEMBER 2003. WE HAVE THREE  
SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER, NINE GRANDDAUGHTERS, AND 5 GREAT  
GRANDCHILDREN.

VIRGIL, OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, NEAR THE END OF WWII, SERVED IN THE UNITED  
STATES COAST GUARD, MOSTLY IN ALASKA. PREVIOUS SCHOOL FOR USCG WAS IN  
GROTON, CONN.

ON AUG. 2, 1948, AFTER SERVICE DISCHARGE, VIRG WORKED FOR NORTH AMERICAN.  
NA SOLD TO ROCKWELL, WHICH IS NOW BOEING-NORTH AMERICAN. VIRG FLEW  
WITH PILOTS FOR NA TESTING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. IN SEPT. 1949 THE PLANE  
CRASHED AND CROSSED A MAJOR STREET, ENDING IN THE GOLF COURSE IN LONG  
BEACH, CA. I WAS 9 MONTH'S PREGNANT WITH OUR FIRST CHILD, TIMOTHY.

HERE ARE A FEW CERTIFICATES VIRG HAS RECEIVED:

SEPT. 30, 1976 "POLARIS-POSEIDON FLEET BALLISTIC PROGRAM."

APRIL 1981 ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE

\*HONORED AT CAPE CANAVERAL AND TAKEN OUT ON A SHIP TO SEE THE  
DEPARTURE, FROM THE OCEAN, OF A MISSILE.

APRIL 1984 - CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR 36 YEARS OF SERVICE.

SEVERAL MORE CERTIFICATES FOR SAVING COMPANY MONEY.

OUR FIRST SON, V. TIMOTHY , SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND WAS TWO TIMES IN VIET NAM. TIM ALSO, HAS MANY MEDALS. TIM LOST FIVE FRIENDS, WHO USED TO COME TO OUR HOME. WE HAD AN OPEN DOOR FOR FRIENDS AND HAD A LARGE FAMILY ROOM WITH A POOL TABLE. EVEN THE TUSTIN PD USED TO COME AND PLAY.

TIM RETIRED LAST YEAR FROM ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA POLICE DEPARTMENT. HE WAS A HELICOPTER PILOT AND LATER A DETECTIVE. TIM WAS ALSO, HEAD OF A GROUP WHO HELPED DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN BY TAKING THEM TO BIG BEAR AND JEEP RIDES , WITH LUNCHES ON BOTH SIDES OF BIG BEAR LAKE. SEVERAL HUNDRED WERE INVOLVED.

OUR SON DANIEL WAS A RESERVE POLICEMAN AND FIREMAN. NOW, DAN AND WIFE JANET, HAS THEIR OWN BUSINESS. THEIR SON-IN-LAW, LEVI CHAMBERLAIN, IS SERVING IN ICELAND WITH THE NAVY. HE FLIES WITH THE PILOTS FROM ICELAND TO EUROPE ETC. OUR GRANDDAUGHTER ELIZABETH, JUST HAD THEIR FIRST BABY BOY, ELI, IN ICELAND.

OUR DAVID SERVED IN THE COLD WAR, DESERT STORM/SHIELD, AND THE SIANI-EGYPT, JUST RETURNED IN JANUARY 2003 WITH HIS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD-MEDIC UNIT.

ON JAN.29, 1987 Foothill High School, Santa Ana, California, sent a "THANK YOU" letter for preventing the theft of an auto. At another time, David saved a mother, child, and father in Tustin, California, when their car turned upside down in a ditch ,full of water, on Hwy 5, and the family could not get out. If I remember correctly, Dave jumped a fence after seeing the situation.

HERE ARE SOME CERTS AND MEDALS:

SEPT 2, 1995 TO DEC. 26,1991/ CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION, COLD WAR, SIGNED BY THE DEFENSE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

NOV. 30, 1992-"ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL"--2ND BATTALION, 414 REGIMENT, 1ST TRAINING BRIGADE, 104TH DIVISION SIGNED BY: RICHARD E MCREYNOLDS, LTC, IN, USAR

MARCH 16, 1992- "ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL" U S ARMY MEDICAL DEPT , ACTIVITY FT ORD--SIGNED BY: PRENTICE THOMPSON JR., COL MC COMMANDER

\*SEPT 7, 1995--"THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL"

ON JULY 16, 1987--A SOLDIER FELL INTO PEARL HARBOR BETWEEN THE DOCKS AND INCOMING BOATS. BEFORE THE BOAT HIT THE DOCK SPEC. DAVID CRAWFORD PULLED THE SOLDIER FROM THE HARBOR TO SAFETY. HIS ACTIONS SAVED THE SOLDIER FROM BEING CRUSHED AND DROWNED. SIGNED BY: STEPHEN R SMITH, SECRETARY OF THE ARMY THIS MEDAL WAS GIVEN TO DAVID BY WES COOLEY, , 2ND DISTR., WHO FLEW WITH HIS WIFE FROM WASHINGTON, D C TO PERSONALLY GIVE THIS MEDAL, AT THE ASHLAND ARMORY.

DAVID LEFT MEDFORD AIRPORT WITH HIS UNIT JULY 2, 2002 AND FLEW HOME JAN. 3, 2003. SOON , DAVID AND SOME OF HIS MEDIC UNIT WILL LEAVE AGAIN FOR FT. ORD, COLORADO, FOR SEVERAL MONTHS OF TRAINING TO RETURN AGAIN TO ??????

DO YOU SEE NOW WHY I AM SO PROUD OF MY FAMILY?

OUR MEN AND WOMEN ARE STILL SERVING, DYING, AND DESPERATELY NEED OUR WHITE CITY DOM FOR THEIR NEEDS.

THE VIET NAM WAR WAS ONE OF OUR WORST BECAUSE...OF THE LACK OF UNITY HERE AT HOME AND RESPECT FOR OUR VETS AND FAMILIES.

THIS WAR IS AS BAD OR WORSE WHEN OUR PEOPLE HERE DO NOT REALIZE HOW MUCH AMERICA IS BLESSED.

WE ARE A GREAT NATION. THE BEST NATION EVER TO HELP OTHERS. MAY GOD GRANT US THIS PRIVILEGE FOREVER.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP. REMEMBER, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOME HERE.

NEWS: JUST RECEIVED INFO THAT OUR LEVI CHAMBERLAIN HAS BEEN AWARDED AN "ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL" LAST MONTH. THE NAVY STATEMENTS ARE TRUELY GIVING LEVI ACCOLADES FOR HIS ABILITIES. WE ARE PROUD AGAIN.

ALSO, DID YOU KNOW DON CLAUSEN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS 1963-1983? DON AND OLLIE ARE FRIENDS OF OUR FAMILY. OUR SON TIM'S MOTHER AND FATHER-IN-LAW HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOR MANY YEARS AND WERE AT BOTH OF TIM'S DAUGHTERS WEDDINGS. TIM'S OLDEST DAUGHTER IS A TEACHER-MOTHER OF TWO, AND HIS SECOND DAUGHTER IS AN AMERICAN AIRLINE STEWARDESS.

OUR DAUGHTER ALYCE HAS THREE DAUGHTERS, ONE WHO WANTS TO BE A BABY DOCTOR. OUR SON-IN-LAW IS AN ATTORNEY FOR CALIFORNIA AND OREGON.

THE PATRIOTIC QUILT I MADE FOR PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH AND MRS LAURA BUSH IS DONE AND WILL SOON BE SENT. WE ARE ALL BLESSED, EVEN THOUGH SOME DO NOT KNOW IT, TO HAVE GEORGE BUSH- CHRISTIAN AS OUR PRESIDENT.

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

MRS JUNE CRAWFORD

Dear CARES Commission,

My name is Jason Lang I am the Human Resource Manager for Panel Products, and I am a Naval Reserve Seabee and I have a brother that is an ex-Marine. This affects the business I work for and it affects my brother and me.

Presently veterans make up 15% of our work force. Eighteen veterans are on TWT, and we employing eight veterans whose contract expired with TWT. If the White City Domiciliary were to close, we would lose 15% of our employment base. This would be a significant hardship to our company. Mike Kidwell and Herb Valley both vocational rehabilitation counselors have done a fabulous job recommending candidates for TWT. I have enjoyed this relationship with the VA Domiciliary and I hope that it can continue for many years to come.

Since 2001 Medply / Panel Products has employed 95 veterans through the White City VA Domiciliary. Out of the 95 veterans that we have employed 15 of the veterans had service-connected injuries. We have had a total of 19,390 hours of work therapy performed at a total of \$149,474.90 compensated.

Eighteen veterans are currently actively participating in TWT at Panel Products; and within 30 days after participating in TWT at Panel Products, 48 veterans obtained full-time competitive employment either locally or in the community. One veteran enrolled in college, and seven veterans enrolled in additional rehabilitation training programs. The total positive outcome is 78%.

The veterans wage through TWT is \$7.50 and after the contract is complete and if they are hired the wage is \$9.18 and up. We have veterans that we have employed that are supervisors, forklift drivers, equipment operators, specialized laborers, millwrights, and basic laborers. The veterans are dispersed through ten different critical job classifications in the mill. Panel Products is fully integrated with veterans. The veterans that have been employed through TWT have had a good workplace ethics. The veterans demonstrate good teamwork skills and punctuality. There has only been one veteran that has had any disciplinary action. I am very pleased with this outcome.

In the last ten years, the White City Domiciliary has helped 932 veterans gain meaningful full time employment in the community. For most of the veterans, the Domiciliary is the last stop before prison. I honestly believe that if this 550-bed treatment facility were closed down we would need open a 300-bed prison.

Most of the veterans are in treatment for drugs or alcohol. For most of the veterans their lives have been on a downward spiral for the last 5-10 years. I believe that meaningful employment gives the veterans hope. I am so pleased to see the veterans make a life change and in some small way be a part of that change.

The way the VA affects me is that I am a reservist with the possibility of being called to active duty. If I needed treatment or medication, where would I go? Right now today there are 175,000 reservists on activity duty. The total number of reservists on active duty from 2002 through 2003 will be well over 300,000 reservists. I am amazed that just after a time of war and tremendous mobilization the idea of closing a VA Domiciliary would even arise. On your website, you expect the Northwest treatment to increase by 18% over the next 16 years.

The unemployment rate for Medford-Ashland for August 2003 is 6.8% and closing the Domiciliary would adversely affect this community.

As I stated at earlier this Domiciliary affects my brother. My brother is an Ex-Marine who has had a battle with a mental illness. If the Domiciliary were not close by my brother would have never sought treatment. He is able to pick up his medications in White City. My brother is able to function well in society and this Domiciliary is making life better for an Ex-Marine. If the Domiciliary were to be closed, where would the veterans go? Most of the veterans needing treatment are financially strapped and driving 300 miles and missing a day or two of work is not feasible. The veteran will just not get treatment.

To Whom it May Concern:

I have lived in southern Oregon all 62 years of my life and have been an outpatient at the Veterans Domiciliary (VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics) for the past twenty-two years. For more than ten years I have been a volunteer at the facility as well. Since February 20, 1949 the "Dom" has been the only VA care for Veterans in Southern Oregon. Many have had nowhere to go since the next closest care facility is nearly 100 miles away. Many have been suffering from disabilities due to wounds received while protecting our lives and to give the rest of us a safe home.

Being of Native American decent I know first hand the pressures of trying to find Medical care in this unfriendly world. Sure the VA has several clinics elsewhere if we have transportation to get there and can wait for sometimes up to years for the care. Then we get the runaround because of the overcrowded facilities that are available. It sometimes takes up to six months to be seen at Roseburg or Portland "IF" you can make it up there. With the Dom being located in Southern Oregon we at least have a chance. There are over 25,000 Veterans in the surrounding area and of them approximately 12,000 are Native Americans. All of the Native Americans are bound by tradition to serve their country without question. When they complete their obligations many need specialized treatment that only a Veterans facility is equipped to give. The V.A. Dom is the only place where we have to search out care. Many of our Veterans have a deep fear of asking anyone for assistance and a deep distrust of the government because of a history of being lied to and shoved aside to be forgotten by the establishment.

Just south of the Klamath River are several Civil War dead are buried with honors after being brought back to their ancestral home. These dead heroes were of the same tribe as I am. We do not ask for much and expect less. That is why the VA cannot take what little we have and turn the sick and wounded away without anywhere to go.

Today I speak for not only my relations and family but for all those that cannot speak for themselves when I ask that you consider what you will be doing to so many people when you deny them from the Medical care that is needed so badly. As we speak there are

those that are being killed and wounded at a war to protect our way of life. They will be coming home needing care just as those did before them. With the pain and anguish of what they have just gone through many will turn to the only release they feel they can get from the bottle or in the way of drugs. When that happens what will we be able to do for these ones that have given so much out of their lives.

On a hill near Eagle Point rests thousands of our fallen heroes that gave their all for what? Many look down on those that are housed for care at our Dom and do not remember that only a few years ago that person was in a fire fight and at such a young age may have seen many die screaming for home. So many of us have promised that person that we would bring them home, and we have done our best to do just that. I ask you please help do what we promised those young men and women. Help us bring them home. The care at the Dom is one that does just that. If you tear it down, all of those that sleep on that hill out there will have died for nothing. Let those that have made it their business to care for those brothers and sisters that walk the halls at White City, Oregon do their job. Let all the Veterans know that when they put their lives on the line they have somewhere to go.

I am told that our Dom cannot meet the standards for an earthquake. How many other buildings really can when you get down to the facts? When was the last earthquake here that knocked down anything in White City? Once there was a volcano a few thousand years ago. My ancestors watched as Mt. Mazama blew, making Crater Lake. If it were to do that again it wouldn't make any difference.

Don't make us a statistic of cuts that will not help in any way. The Dom has done its job in the past and continues to do it in a way that is cost effective. How many other Veterans establishments have had the most successful Stand Down? We have the awards to prove it. The largest Powwow in Southern Oregon is the Veterans Powwow. It is held at the Dom every June and the next one is June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of 2004. For the many Native Americans at the Dom there is a sweat lodge in place that has been a help to all who have been there.

James A. Prevatt – 614 Alberts St., Medford, OR. 97501

The Dom is located on ancient sacred land of the Rogue Shasta Indian. This land is between Mt. McLaughlin (known by local Indians as Mt. Pitt) and the most sacred place the Table Rocks. Here, thousands of Rogue Indians were massacred by the Cavalry from Ft. Lane. The history of White City is enough to put it on the rolls of historical sites. It was at one time a POW camp where German soldiers were held. It was an Army training camp and the bunkers are still nearby. The Dom itself was at one time an Army hospital and the home of the 196<sup>th</sup> Infantry, a proud Army Division that went to war defending our country. Look at its history and at what it is doing for those that need help. Is this place really an eyesore or is it a very important medical facility that cannot be replaced by any small clinic that cannot care for the tens of thousands that need the care, both as inpatients and as outpatients. All of us that raised our right hands and swore before our Creator were promised the best in medical care. Don't tear it down when it is needed so badly.

Sincerely,

James A. Prevatt  
614 Alberts St.  
Medford, OR. 97501

September 15, 2003

Richard E. Larson  
Executive Director  
Cares Commission

Dear Mr. Larson:

In order to understand the significance of the impact that the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics (SORC&C) has had on me and many other people, one must join me in a journey. Beginning in 1962, I enlisted in the Air Force at 17 years of age, was honorably discharged at the end of my enlistment. I married in 1967 and assumed the responsibilities of Husband and Father to an 11 & 7 year old. I went to college and worked full time during my schooling. After college I worked a number of jobs and also started two businesses. One business failed the other I closed down as costs escalated. During this time my marriage failed as well, which brought with it estrangement from my children. In December 1998 my home was repossessed and I started a downward spiral of despair and homeless existence. Come with me now for the latest segment of this odyssey.

My experience at the SORC&C has been a life changing one. I came to White City from Sacramento, California referred by the Sacramento Veterans Resource Center. Arriving at 5:30am by bus with \$5.00 in my pocket and no way back to where I started, I walked from the Greyhound depot to the local bus station. Not knowing what to expect or where for sure I was going, I boarded the bus for the "Dom". Waiting to be accepted was an ordeal, one filled with anxiety and apprehension. After admission and bed assignment, my thoughts were of food and sleep, warm uncramped sleep in a bed not the front seat of a pickup truck - a truck that had been my house for almost three years.

Shortly after meeting with my case manager to develop a treatment plan, I started my Incentive Therapy position. My job was to clean restrooms and hallways in various wards in the substance abuse section. Several months later I was asked to become the detail leader and still am to this day. In this capacity, I have seen about four complete rotations of residents. I observed street hardened people go through some tremendous changes: from hopelessness to hope, callousness to caring, helplessness to helping others. A true growth process in which short-term goals were set and obtained. Short-term goals gave way to long-term hopes and ambition, with the belief and confidence that these goals were obtainable.

In the process of observing others I came to realize that I also had come through a metamorphosis. With a newfound sense of confidence and self-image, I applied for and was accepted for membership on the Patient Council. This experience helped my return to reality, by making me think of others before myself, to set aside personal views in order to achieve goals that serve the patient body as a whole, and serve the common good.

As I prepare to leave the "Dom", I feel an obligation to my fellow Veterans to ensure that the services at this facility are here for those who need them now as well as those who will need the assistance in the future.

The SORC&C is more a national resource than a regional one based on the far-reaching draw and origin of its residents. Rather than curtailing services the V.A. should bring in clinicians from other VISN's for orientation and exposure to the programs that have proven successful. The V.A. should utilize vacant bed space in the other VISN's for transitional housing and a continuing support system in larger, more diverse labor markets to help insure a successful return to a productive and fulfilling lifestyle.

I believe that the Southern Rehabilitation Center and Clinics can fulfill these current needs as well as future needs and should – no MUST stay operating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Lamb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "L".

Jonathan Lamb  
President, SORC&C Patient Council  
V.A. SORC&C  
White City, Oregon