

from the
Executive Director



James T. (Jim)
Currie, Ph.D.,
Colonel, USA Ret.

French Hamsters and the Commissioned Corps

It was an article about wild French hamsters and the cereal grains they consume, and it appeared in a recent issue of *Smithsonian Magazine*, to which I am a subscriber. I read almost every story in every issue of this magazine, and I thought this one was particularly interesting, as I knew nothing about wild French hamsters. I was quite surprised as I read the article to see a reference to Dr. Joseph Goldberger, identified as the man who discovered that pellagra, a disease which plagued poor folks in the American South whose hog, hominy, and molasses diet omitted fresh fruits and vegetables, was caused by a vitamin deficiency. The article told how Dr. Goldberger had run experiments in which prisoners with pellagra were fed fresh vegetables and were cured of their

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New Four-Hour Leadership and Management Course for Fellows from Thailand



FETP fellows from Thailand engaging in case studies and role-playing a myriad of scenarios in the workplace.

by CAPT Charlene Majersky, Ph.D.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) is a fellowship in applied epidemiology that is built on partnerships with Ministries of Health in over seventy countries. The FETP training helps fellows acquire the epidemiologic skills necessary to solve medical mysteries. So far, FETP has trained more than 10,000 disease detectives to stop outbreaks at their source.

The FETP introduced a new leadership and management course to provide the fellows with additional tools to effectively manage responses to public health emergencies (e.g., Ebola, Zika, diphtheria, and polio eradication).

From 2014-2017, I taught a three-hour leadership and management course that I developed for FETP fellows from Thailand and India. In 2017, the FETP requested that I expand the course to four hours to allow more discussion on adapting the leadership and management tools for their culture. I agreed and developed a modified course. On March 28, 2018, I had the privilege of teaching my new four-hour course to FETP fellows (MDs, DVMs) from Thailand.

The first part of the course (three hours) utilized a pragmatic didactic approach to build knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) in the areas of leadership theories, leadership styles, guiding principles of a mindful leader and mindfulness meditation, basic pillars of management, tips for managing effectively and successfully, fundamentals of leadership and management, communication principles and strategies, methods for developing

see **THAILAND** continued on page 14

COA Member Benefits

Capitol Hill Representation

Efforts on Capitol Hill continually support all Commissioned Corps officers – active duty and retired

Local Representation

COA Local Branches provide venues for meeting fellow officers and a forum for the discussion of issues within the Commissioned Corps

Newsletter reports on monthly activities and items of interest about the Corps & COA

Insurance Programs

Low-cost insurance programs that may continue as long as your membership in COA remains current

\$7,500 for Online Degrees

\$7,500 scholarships to earn online degrees, which include:

MPH@GW
MHA@GW
HealthInformatics@GW
MBA@UNC
MBA@Simmons
HealthcareMBA@Simmons
IRonline (American)
MBA@American

NYMC Online MPH

50 percent discount for the online MPH and certificate programs

Scholarship Program

College scholarships for children and spouses of COA members

Ribbon

Authorized to be worn on the PHS uniform by members in good standing when attending COA functions



Legislative Update

Will Congress Fund CDC Gun Research?

by Judy Rensberger

Since Congress made clear earlier this year that CDC has the authority to conduct research on the causes of gun violence (see *April Frontline*), public health advocates have been pushing to make it happen. A bill in Congress has attracted new interest. Several broad-based coalitions are rallying around efforts to support a \$50 million appropriation to CDC to help reinstate a robust program of gun violence research.

The \$50 million figure was floated by Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association, at a Capitol Hill briefing co-sponsored by APHA and the American Psychological Association (APA) on 5 April. (The meeting room was set up to seat 50, but an estimated 125 congressional staffers showed up.)

Legislation

The Gun Violence Research Act (H.R. 1478) was introduced last year by Rep. Stephanie Murphy, a first-term member of Congress from Florida. Her intent was to “repeal the provision that in practice prohibits” CDC from conducting research gun violence and, at the same time, promote “evidence-based intramural and extramural research . . . consistent with the Second Amendment and other constitutional protections.” Rep. Murphy was referring to the so-called Dickey amendment, which had been routinely tacked onto appropriations bills and, for twenty years, widely interpreted to ban gun violence research at CDC. With that “ban” now

clarified as not really a ban after all, H.R. 1478 has picked up an additional 57 co-sponsors, for a total of 173 from congressional districts in 27 states. Support is modestly bipartisan, with 166 Democrats and seven Republicans on the record.

Coalition Activity

COA is an organizational member of several health-related coalitions that are working to win \$50 million to restart robust gun violence research at CDC. Two examples:

The American Academy of Pediatrics is circulating a letter directed to all appropriators in both chambers of Congress. In asking for \$50 million in FY 2019 “to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention,” the letter also argues that \$50 million provided *annually* would enable CDC to begin ten to twenty large, multi-year studies each year. As *Frontline* goes to press, twenty-five national medical, public health, and health research organizations have signed the letter.

The Nursing Community, a coalition of sixty national nursing organizations, voted unanimously to support H.R. 1478. The Nursing Community’s letter said it promotes evidence-based research that examines the causes of gun violence and identifies methods to reduce gun-related fatalities and injuries. The letter also said that research results should be shared with the public.

What does all this mean? No longer can anyone

see **LEGISLATIVE** continued on page 2

Resurrecting the Past: "The Forgotten Acre Project"

by LCDR Melinda Ruiz and LCDR Tunesia Mitchell

Members of the Commissioned Officers Associations (COA) from New York and Washington, DC, visited Ocean View The Cemetery Beautiful, Inc., on Staten Island, NY, shortly after RADM (ret.) Michael Milner's call to resume efforts in support of RADM Pamela Schweitzer's "The Forgotten Acre Project." The project serves to bring awareness to nearly one thousand interred merchant mariners and quarantined patients who received their care from the United States Marine Hospital. The hospital was located on the Quarantine Grounds, which was considered New York's first line of defense against communicable illnesses from ships entering New York Bay.

In the 19th century, US Marine Hospital Service members, the predecessors of today's US Public Health Service Officers, lived through harsh times and contributed much to protecting the public's health. Native New Yorkers RADM Robert Davidson, Regional Health Administrator Region II, and the 17th Surgeon General, VADM (ret.) Richard H. Carmona, also shared memories of the "Forgotten Acre."

The private cemetery grounds are covered with aging markers and natural debris from more than 100 years. Headstones are in varying states of legibility. The PHS Officers' recent visit to the cemetery grounds prompted a search for more history about the individuals interred in the cemetery. We were able to uncover the "New York Passenger List," which is a 900-page register of travelers from 1820-1957. This manifest has recordings of merchant mariners entering the New York Bay from all over the world. The manifest details names, personal information, physical characteristics, passenger positions on the ship, travel dates, and country of origin. The documentation also includes other international travelers who may have also been quarantined at the hospital.

The headstone for Robert Roske, a thirty-three-year-old merchant mariner from Latvia, was legible. According to the manifest, he arrived at the New York Bay on February 23, 1927, on a ship called the "Manchuria," (photo 1), and on April 19, 1927, less than two months later, he died on Staten Island and was buried in the Ocean View Cemetery.

Many attempts have been made to enhance awareness of this historic site. In 2011, Friends of Abandoned Cemeteries of Staten Island (FACSI) cleaned-up the site, cleared tree branches and weeds from around the headstones, righted headstones and placed US flags to honor those laid to rest. Local Staten Island newspapers described the public efforts. During our recent visit there was no evidence of site maintenance or additional major clean-up attempts.

Officers from the two COA branches had the unique experience of meeting and interviewing two former clinicians, one of whom was stationed at the old PHS hospital, previously known as the U.S. Marine Hospital (aka Quarantine) from 1969-1974. RADM (ret.)



Ocean View Cemetery on Staten Island, NY

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LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIENS EMPLOYED ON THE VESSEL AS MEMBERS OF CREW

Required under Act of Congress of February 5, 1917, to be delivered to the United States Immigration Office by the representatives of any vessel having such aliens on board upon arrival at a port of the United States.

Vessel		Arriving at New York		April 1927		From the port of		20th	
Name of Vessel	Country	From	To	Arrived	Departed	Port	Country	Arrived	Departed
U.S. "MANCHURIA"	Manchuria	Manchuria	New York	April 19, 1927	April 23, 1927	Manchuria	Manchuria	April 19, 1927	April 23, 1927
NAME	WILLIAM J.	STATUS	Deck Hand	AGE	33	HT	5 11	WT	150
Christian name	Charles	Official position	Chief Officer	DOB	02 09 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Lee	Joseph	Race	White	DOB	05 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Bombard	Edie	DOB	03 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair	Height	5 7
Smalley	William	Jr. Deck	White	DOB	07 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Hamblett	Opriel	Bo.	White	DOB	09 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Quiver	James	Jr. Radio	White	DOB	03 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Earl	Major	Surgeon	White	DOB	08 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
O'Donoghue	Leo J.	Purser	White	DOB	03 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
De Luca	Nicholas	Asst. Purser	White	DOB	03 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Seaver	James	Clerk	White	DOB	09 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Montgomery	Will	Carpenter	White	DOB	07 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Eng	Henry	Boatman	White	DOB	08 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Cowley	John	White	White	DOB	02 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Nichols	Joseph	Steward	White	DOB	04 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Kidger	Harry	Master at Arms	White	DOB	06 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Chapman	Arthur		White	DOB	09 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Bath	Max, Sr.		White	DOB	08 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Bilou	Udo		White	DOB	07 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Ollingale	John		White	DOB	06 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Alberts	Edna		White	DOB	02 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Brockmann	Albert		White	DOB	02 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Anderson	Carl		White	DOB	02 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Ohlin	Dezsoon M		White	DOB	02 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Kease	Robert	Jackman	White	DOB	03 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Donald	William		White	DOB	04 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Malley	James		White	DOB	04 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Brown	Duffley		White	DOB	05 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Murphy	William		White	DOB	05 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair
Barison	James		White	DOB	05 08 1893	Color	B	Complexion	Fair

"New York Passenger List," a manifest of merchant mariners entering New York Bay

Richard J. Bertin, a pharmacist, was stationed at the hospital on Staten Island from 1969-1971 and again in 1973-1974, before he was transferred to the Division of Hospitals & Clinics headquarters as the System Chief. Staten Island was the largest hospital in that system, and many PHS officers trained or rotated through this site at some point in their careers. That was an especially important assignment for RADM Bertin, as he met his wife of forty-four years, Catherine Bertin, at the hospital. Mrs. Bertin was a civilian nurse on the floor where unit dose drug distribution was first introduced. RADM Bertin and Mrs. Bertin spoke of the seamen who were immediately admitted into the hospital after they were stricken with illness while on board their ships, and who typically stayed at the hospital until their ship returned a few months later. Upon recovery,

see **RESURRECTING** continued on page 6

Little Colorado River COA makes blankets for local foster children

by LCDR Lindsay Sampson

Inspired by Project Linus, a national organization that helps deliver homemade blankets to underprivileged, seriously ill, or traumatized children, members of the Little Colorado COA branch decided to take on a similar project that would reach the local Native American population. Officers learned about a local organization, Navajo Christian Foundation (NCF), that houses a foster home. Many children come into the home with few personal possessions, and the facility usually houses around five children at any given time.

Our chapter held a fundraiser and elected to use some of our funds to make blankets for these children. Several officers donated money and/or helped make the blankets: LCDR Lindsay Sampson, LT Kenya Destin, LCDR Denise Blackrock, LT Edwige Djassa, LCDR Susan Clauschee, LT Nicholas Palm, and LCDR Martin Taxera. Some officers shopped for soft flannel fabric and then met at a branch member's home on a Saturday in March for a sewing day. Officers worked from about 9 am to 8 pm ironing, cutting, pinning, and sewing a total of twenty blankets. It was a fun day that allowed officers to hang out outside of work, perform a kind deed, and polish their sewing skills.

The twenty blankets were distributed to NCF on 13 April, with seven children immediately receiving blankets. The remaining blankets will be distributed throughout the year as new children come in. We intend to make this an annual or biannual project.



LCDR Clauschee, LCDR Sampson, and LT Destin proudly display a few of the blankets



A small view of each blanket

Good Tax News for Maryland Retirees

The Maryland General Assembly passed, and Governor Larry Hogan signed, a bill giving tax relief to all uniformed service retirees age 55 and older, starting with this tax year (2018).

Beginning in 2018 all those receiving Uniformed Service retirement income, to include Survivor Benefit Program payments, will have an exemption of \$15,000 from Maryland State Income Tax, beginning at age 55.

COA retirees were active in this effort, which was spearheaded by our friends at the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

Want your voice heard? Register to Vote and Request your Absentee Ballot



by CDR Jeff Tarrant

“Nobody will ever deprive the American people the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as U.S. citizens, and as a member of the Uniformed Services, you and your family members are eligible to vote absentee in your voting jurisdiction. As a USPHS officer, it is likely you will vote via absentee ballot. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act states that any service member, or eligible family member, living outside his or her voting jurisdiction is eligible to vote absentee. This means that you can cast your ballot from wherever you are stationed. It's easy, and the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website has everything you need to get started.

With the 2018-midterm elections fast approaching, it's important that you register to vote and request your absentee ballot as soon as possible. In fact, the FVAP recommends you do it every year to make sure your information is updated and your absentee ballot application remains active. Go to www.FVAP.gov to fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), which allows you to apply to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and/or update your contact information with your local election office. *The FPCA is the primary method of communication between you and your election official.* The information provided on this form is all the local election office has to determine if you meet the State voter registration requirements, which election materials to send you, and where and how to send you a ballot.

Get Started. Send in your Registration and Ballot Request Today.

Using the Federal Post Card Application available at www.FVAP.gov will maximize your eligibility to vote in each upcoming federal election. In many instances, you may receive ballots for all upcoming elections. To ensure you meet your State's requirements, follow the below-listed steps:

1. Go to www.FVAP.gov and select your home state from the drop-down menu under **“Voters Start Here.”** Scroll down to the **“Register to Vote, Request a Ballot or Update My Voter Info”** section. Choose one of the options to complete your FPCA. Print and sign the form.
2. Fold and seal your FPCA. If using the online FPCA, the PDF package includes a template for a postage-paid envelope.
3. Address and mail the FPCA to your local election official. Contact information can be found on the FVAP website. Be sure to include your return address, and affix postage if using a foreign postal service.

Ballots are supposed to be sent out by the states forty-five days prior to an election. Once you receive your official ballot, follow the enclosed instructions provided by your local election official.

Sign up for your state's voting alerts at www.FVAP.gov to receive the most current and up-to-date election information, including election dates, important deadlines and changes to state laws that affect how you vote absentee.

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact the FVAP's call center at 1.800.438.8683 (9am – 5pm EST) or by E-mail at vote@fvap.gov.



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Email us to volunteer at

coamembership@coausphs.org



Mrs. Catherine Bertin and retired RADM Dick Bertin

RESURRECTING from page 3

the seamen would volunteer their services to assist medical staff or perform leatherwork or crafting. At times, the seamen would receive one-day passes to travel out of the facility.

Mrs. Bertin spoke of the times when she opened her home to seamen for them to enjoy a home-cooked dinner. She also spoke fondly about her patients and experience as evening charge nurse. She recalled a patient by the name of James C., often called Jimmy by the medical staff. He was a young man in his thirties who had an interest in photography; he, however, succumbed to a disabling central nervous system disease while admitted in the hospital. Mrs. Bertin also remembered that although Jimmy lacked a gravestone, she knows he was buried in the main section of Ocean View Cemetery.

After the last visit to the Ocean View Cemetery, we determined that most of those interred in "The Forgotten Acre," identified as Section 4, Block 4535, Lot 1, are seamen, and that the marine hospital providers (US PHS officers) were traditionally buried on separate grounds. However, with weathered headstones and our inability to obtain Ocean View Cemetery's roster of names of those that are buried at this site, we are presently unable to confirm this theory.

The New York and Washington DC, COA Officers will not forget the "Forgotten Acre, "(Section 4, Block 4535, Lot 1), Ocean View The Cemetery Beautiful, Inc"., on Staten Island. We appreciate the encouragement provided by RADM Schweitzer for highlighting the "Forgotten Acre Project" and for inspiring officers to learn about the rich PHS past. It was a priceless experience to honor our history, and it inspired us to further appreciate the value PHS provides for public health and awareness. We encourage our colleagues to resurrect the past and explore their local PHS history.

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Acknowledgements:

RADM Pamela Schweitzer, CAPT Jean Kelahan (Ret.), CDR Patricio Garcia, CDR Liatte Krueger Closs, LCDR Jonathan Blonk and CAPT Robin Hunter Buskey

National Archives Sample Citing (pending microfilm details if needed):

Anna Lacek, SS Noordam Passenger Manifest, July 11, 1908; stamped page 82, line 3; Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1897-1957 (National Archives Microfilm Publication T715, roll 1122); Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Record Group 85

ENS Ma Wins Iron Med Competition

Lucy Ma is a medical student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) and an Ensign in the Public Health Service. She won the prestigious Iron Med Competition, held on 31 March at MedStar Harbor Hospital in Baltimore. Following is an interview with her.

Frontline: Please explain the Iron Med Competition.

ENS Ma: Iron Med is a competition that is held at the American College of Physicians “Steps to Success” conference for medical students. The conference occurs every year in Baltimore, MD. It is a written competition. There are 12-15 clinical vignettes with associated questions. The person who answers the most questions correctly wins.

Frontline: Who qualifies to compete in Iron Med?

ENS Ma: It is an open competition; anybody at the conference is welcome to compete. There were medical students from all years participating. They were from many medical schools, including Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland.

Frontline: How many people competed?

ENS Ma: I am not sure of the total number of people who competed. I would estimate about 50-60 students. However, there were three USUHS students in attendance at the conference, and we all participated. One of my classmates placed second in the competition.

Frontline: How does such a competition better prepare you for medical school?

ENS Ma: I thought the competition highlighted both salient and esoteric topics learned in medical school. It is important to recognize such topics, as they could all be applicable in clinical practice.

Frontline: Do you have any tips for fellow students who may prepare for a future Iron Med Competition?

ENS Ma: Eponyms are important for the competition i.e. Hutchinson’s sign.

Frontline: Where would you like to work in the Commissioned Corps?

ENS Ma: I am detailed to the Indian Health Service and remain open to upcoming opportunities.



ENS Ma and ENS Michael placed 1st and 2nd in the Iron Med Competition at the 15th Annual Medical Students’ Steps to Success Meeting, hosted by American College of Physicians. Photo courtesy of USU.



As well as competing in the Iron Med Competition, ENS Ma presented two posters. One, entitled “Proximal Weakness, Polyneuropathy and Leukocytosis with Neuroborreliosis,” was given a ribbon and selected to move on to final judging. Photo courtesy of USUHS.

Veterans ID Card Victory

As of 25 April 2018, choices on the new pull-down menu for the Veterans ID Card at <https://vicbdc.vba.va.gov/VIC/pages/main.jsf> regarding branch of service include the following:

AF, ARMY, NAVY, MC, CG, AF RESERVE. AIR NATIONAL GUARD, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, ARMY RESERVE, CG RESERVE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE, NAVY RESERVE, PHS, NOAA

COA had reached out to the VA when we learned that "PHS" was not an option on the pull-down menu for branch of service, and when we got nowhere with the VA, we went to Military.com and generated a story about it. We also reached out to staff on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

These cards identify the bearer as a veteran of one of the seven federal uniformed services and may entitle you to certain discounts. They duplicate, in some respects the CAC or retired uniformed service ID you probably carry now.

Please let us here at COA headquarters know if you, as an honorably-discharged USPHS officer, have a problem in obtaining your ID card. Please email us at coamembership@coausphs.org



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Commander Timothy Cunningham, ScD

Long-time COA member and former Atlanta COA Branch President CDR Timothy Cunningham has died. He disappeared on 12 February, and his body was found near the Chattahoochee River on 3 April. According to the Atlanta medical examiner, the cause of his death was drowning.

Timothy Jerrell Cunningham was born on December 21, 1982, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL. He attended Charles County (MD) Public Schools. After graduating with honors from Thomas Stone High School, he received an Academic Scholarship to Morehouse College. Tim was a member of the Class of 2004 and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate who earned a degree in Biology. During his time at Morehouse, he was very active in several organizations and was Managing Editor of *The Maroon Tiger* (2003-2004). CDR Cunningham earned a Master's degree (2006) and Doctorate of Science (2010) in Social Epidemiology from the Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health.

CDR Cunningham joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2010 as part of its Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) and worked in the Division of Reproductive Health. He was selected as the Team Lead for the State Chronic Disease Epidemiology Assignee Program in the Division for Population Health, where he supervised CDC epidemiologists assigned to State health departments and supported State chronic disease prevention activities.

Prior to CDC, he was a research assistant at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, an analyst at the US Government Accountability Office, a pre-doctoral fellow at the Harvard University Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity, and the editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy* at John F. Kennedy School of Government.

CDR Cunningham was very passionate about his work. His research was focused on understanding health differences related to race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sex, and geography. His research and evaluation efforts applied a wide range of quantitative and qualitative methods to examine social and behavioral determinants of population health and have been published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, and



the *Maternal and Child Health Journal*.

A teacher at heart, he was also a teaching assistant in the Department of Society, Human Development, and Health at Harvard School of Public Health and a teaching fellow in the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. He previously taught introductory epidemiology to undergraduates at Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Clark Atlanta University.

CDR Cunningham demonstrated outstanding leadership, serving as President of the Atlanta Commissioned Officers Association (COA), supporting approximately 1,000 officers. He was an active member of the American Public Health Association, the Junior Officer Advisory Group, and the Black Commissioned Officers Advisory Group, and he was liaison to the Minority Officers Liaison Council. CDR Cunningham was an alumnus of the LEAD Atlanta Class of 2014 and was listed in *Who's Who in America*. Additionally, he was awarded the 2014 George I. Lythcott Award, the PHS Field Medical Readiness Badge, and multiple other decorations, including two Achievement Medals, an Outstanding Unit Citation, and a Crisis

Response Service Award.

In its statement, CDC said:

"CDR Timothy Cunningham's colleagues and friends at CDC are deeply saddened to learn of his death. Tim was a treasured member of the CDC family and his work as an epidemiologist was invaluable to CDC's efforts to protect the health, safety, and security of Americans.

"Tim's impact will be felt not only through his significant contributions to CDC's mission, but also through his influence on the lives of his colleagues and friends. We extend our condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time."

CDR Cunningham is survived by his parents, USAF Colonel (Ret) Terrell A. Cunningham and Tia-Juana Bowen Cunningham; his sister, Tiara LaPearl Cunningham; his brother, Anterio Taiwan Cunningham; his grandparents, Benjamin and Mary Bowen and Lottie Miller Cunningham; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers COA made a contribution in CDR Cunningham's name to Morehouse College, per the family's request.

CPO of Medical Category Meets with Officers in the Field in NYC

by LCDR George Pourakis, MD, MPH

CAPT Brian Lewis assumed the role of Chief Professional Officer for the medical category in November of 2017, and he has hit the ground running.

In his constant effort to become aware of the many officer perspectives, and not just of those in his category, CAPT Lewis traveled to NYC on 19 and 20 April 2018 to meet with officers in Region 2. As President of the Greater New York City Branch of COA, I was honored to coordinate the logistics of his visit, as well as to meet with him individually.

On 19 April, CAPT Lewis met with officers one-on-one at the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building in Manhattan. On 20 April, he returned to 26 Federal Plaza to meet with officers as a group. Many medical officers and non-medical officers alike took advantage of this opportunity for face-time with CAPT Lewis. Topics included health professions special pays, clinical requirements, recruitment, retention, promotion, and force management.

The main theme of CAPT Lewis' message was that he viewed his role as one of service to the Corps. He believes that his charge is to listen and learn from officers in order to best advocate for them and encourage them, as well as to advise and inform the Office of the Surgeon General. He views the true test of leadership as how one handles the challenges of difficult times. He stressed that good communication is key to meeting such challenges, and he vowed to keep the lines open as the Corps makes certain transitions in the near future.

In his "day job," CAPT Lewis has served since 2003 as the Senior Regulatory Review Officer for cardiac pacemakers and implantable cardioverter defibrillators at the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. As a fellow medical officer, I sincerely thank him for his service to the Corps and to our category, and I am particularly grateful that he made the trip to meet with some of us face-to-face in Region 2.



LCDR George Pourakis and CAPT Brian Lewis

ATTENTION

USPHS Commissioned Officers, Active Duty and Retired
YOU are subject to the
Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (10USC1408).

If you are contemplating, anticipating or in a divorce proceeding, you really need to have a copy of Divorce and the Military II, \$19.95 (includes S & H). Contact the American Retirees Association [a 501 (c) 19 tax exempt, non-profit organization], to order and/or to join.

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Two Officers Become RADM Jerrold Michael Fellows

LT Renee Nwankwo, MPH, BSN, RN, and LCDR James Speckhart, MS, were each awarded a RADM Jerrold M. Michael Global Health Fellowship. The fellowship is funded by the PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF) and provides funding for two of the four courses required to earn a Certificate in Global Health from the University of Maryland School of Public Health.

In her application, LT Renee Nwankwo, MPH, BSN, RN, wrote, "I believe that my passion for Global and International health is not by coincidence. Providing an environment of sustainability, capacity building, risk assessment, and education is key. Understanding and implementing the dynamics of these focal points are exactly what I intend to achieve with this certificate. As humans, we know that one person cannot change the world, but one person can make an impact." LT Nwankwo is currently serving as a Recruitment Specialist in the Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness.

LCDR James Speckhart, an Environmental Health Officer, is seeking the certificate, "because the courses and knowledge that I plan to gain from the program will better influence my decision making and involvement as it relates to Global Health Engagement as a USPHS Officer." LCDR Speckhart is a Safety and Occupational Health Officer at the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

COF congratulates both officers for their intention to both seek continuing education and use the additional skills and knowledge to improve the patients and communities they serve. We thank the donors who make this program possible. We thank retired RADM Jerry Michael for seeing value in supporting junior officers and the connection with global health.



LT Renee Nwankwo



LCDR James Speckhart



Seed Grants

COF seeks to support community-based public health programs. Non-profit organizations may apply for up to **\$5,000** to support their programs.

Deadline of May 31
phscof.org/seed-grants

The logo for the PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation, featuring a circular seal with an anchor and the text "PHS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS FOUNDATION".

Commissioned officers in the Veterinary Category honored for their work in public health



CAPT Charlotte Spires, the Veterinary Program Manager for the National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and

Response (ASPR), was given the 2017 James H. Steele One Health Outstanding PHS Veterinary Career Award for her twenty-two years of outstanding service. This award recognizes a veterinary officer who has demonstrated significant career achievements promoting One Health. In addition to her present role as Chief Veterinarian of the NVRT, CAPT Spires also managed two DHHS committees that she established: the National Preparedness and Response Science Board and the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters.

CAPT Spires spent fourteen years as a veterinary epidemiologist at FDA,

culminating in her role as Director of the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine's Division of Epidemiology. From 2006–2009 she served as a Supervisory Veterinary Medical Officer for Rapid Deployment Force I. Additional activities include service as adjunct faculty with the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. CAPT Spires has held many leadership positions throughout her career, including Chair of the Commissioned Officers Association Board of Directors, veterinary category representative of the Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board, and voting member of the VetPAC. She is a dedicated mentor and helped develop a volunteer public health internship program for veterinary and public health graduate students in ASPR.

LT Andrew O'Carroll, a medical regulatory reviewer for the FDA's Office of Vaccine Research and Review, was the 2017 recipient of the Veterinary Junior Officer of the Year Award for his



exemplary contributions to public health. His accomplishments include protecting human health through reviews of toxicology studies of investigational

vaccines intended for human use prior to their introduction in clinical trials. His demonstrated leadership includes development of the course curriculum for civilian supervisors who manage PHS officers and mentorship of veterinarians and veterinary students with an interest in joining the Commissioned Corps. He has also served as a dedicated volunteer with the USPHS VetPAC and the American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA). He is noted for his role in developing the AVMA's 24/7 cyberbullying hotline.

LT Laura Adams DVM, MPH (University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine,

see **RESURRECTING** continued on page 12

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CDR Huddleston Honored by the Department of Justice

by CDR Christopher Barrett and CDR Charles Huddleston

CDR Charles Huddleston, Nurse Corps, who served from 2010 – 2017 as the Aeromedical Branch Chief, United States Marshals Service, Justice Prisoner & Alien Transportation System, was recently honored by the Department of Justice with two distinct awards. In 2017, CDR Huddleston was recipient of the 36th Director's Honorary Awards, Citizen of the Year Award, which is one of the highest honors granted by the United States Marshals Service (USMS) to recognize employees and citizens who perform in an exemplary manner to support the agency's missions. He was also selected as recipient of the 65th Attorney General's Award for Meritorious Service for his sustained dedication to the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS). The Attorney General's Award for Meritorious Service is the top public service award granted by the Attorney General to recognize the most significant contributions of citizens and organizations that have assisted the Department of Justice in accomplishment of its mission and objectives.

Under CDR Huddleston's leadership, the JPATS aeromedical program successfully coordinated the special movement needs of approximately 2,000 prisoners each year and screened approximately 100,000 prisoners each year on routine flights to ensure prisoners were medically cleared prior to being transported. With the aging prisoner population, ensuring the safe transport of prisoners with medical conditions and the associated rising cost for transport is a significant concern. CDR Huddleston reviewed cost-benefit initiatives and identified options for implementation of cost-savings measures. Through program review, CDR Huddleston looked at opportunities to enhance transport capabilities. The process began with the revision of the *JPATS Cabin Security Crew Policy & Procedures Manual* and continued with the development of the Flight Medical Provider Clinical Guidelines. This provided



a standardized approach for JPATS to address boarding issues.

With the support of the JPATS Director, guidance was issued to align operating procedures with updated protocols. There was a focus on education and training of U.S. Marshals Service districts and local jails to ensure all medication and transport documentation was present at the airlift site. There was also a need to pre-screen prisoners prior to departure for the airlift.

CDR Huddleston evaluated the aeromedical program capabilities and recommended the purchase of durable medical equipment, which allowed JPATS to evolve and comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards through the purchase of FAA-approved oxygen concentrators. The purchase of cardiac monitors allowed medical personnel to obtain a detailed assessment of medical complaints for appropriate diagnosis and to guide treatments. This expanded JPATS capabilities by allowing the transport of oxygen-dependent inmates and reduced the number of flight diversions related to medical issues that occurred during flight.

In creating solutions to address transportation delays, CDR Huddleston continued to coordinate and work closely with U.S. Marshals Service district, local

jails, Bureau of Prisons, Federal Medical Centers (FMC), and the Office of Medical Designations. This coordination was essential to address transport concerns of aging inmates with comorbidities and to identify the most expeditious method and date for transport. The medical review process is a vital part of complying with JPATS strategic goals.

Through collaboration with FMC's, CDR Huddleston established a projection of scheduled movements which reduced the pre-transit duration inmate housing and air transport cost. This allowed JPATS the ability to manage the movement of inpatient forensic beds, reduce the requirement for multiple extensions and the ability for increased compliance with the Sixth Amendment, which guarantees all persons accused of a crime, the right to a speedy trial. This implementation, along with the revised protocols for special medical needs transports, ensured JPATS the ability for enhanced control and coordination to schedule movements in a timely and more cost effective mode of transport.

CDR Huddleston greatly improved the medical readiness, procedures, and efficiency of the program and contributed significantly to the overall mission of safe, secure, and humane transportation of USMS prisoners.

THAILAND from page 1

and fostering a positive workforce, mentoring, and connecting the dots—leading and managing—in a real-work example. In the final part of the course (one hour), the FETP fellows from Thailand engaged in case studies and role-played a myriad of scenarios to adapt these tools for their culture; these activities emphasized the problem-solving and solutions-oriented aspects of leadership and management. This instruction was designed to enhance the FETP fellows' KSAs in dealing with administrative, personnel, financial, and issues management when they take on leadership roles.

The training was well received by the Thai FETP fellows, and its impact was positive and value-added. They expressed appreciation for providing training on these important topics related to leadership and management. In addition, they requested additional training in-country, expanding on the areas of leadership and mentoring. All of the FETP fellows from Thailand indicated that their KSAs increased one-hundred percent, which was measured from before taking the course and after completing it.

At a fundamental level, teaching imparts knowledge on a particular subject and can elicit a change in attitudes and behaviors. Specific to the workplace, education and training initiatives present an opportunity to augment the KSAs of employees. Furthermore, education and training opportunities provide an organization and its employees with unlimited experiences that can foster growth in moving forward, while assisting them to evolve into their best selves—the result is tangible and intangible benefits that provide appropriate return on investment.

For these future leaders and managers, applying in the workplace the KSAs gained from the training will be their next challenge, as they embark on their journey as leaders within their country's public health system.

VETERINARY from page 12

2012) was one of two recipients of the 2018 James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), awarded in April 2018 at the 67th annual Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference. The annual award is named for the first chief of the CDC's Veterinary Public Health Division, and it is given to current or recent EIS officers for outstanding contributions to veterinary public health and One Health. The "One Health" concept recognizes that the health of humans is connected to the health of animals and the environment requiring interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral teams to address today's One Health challenges.

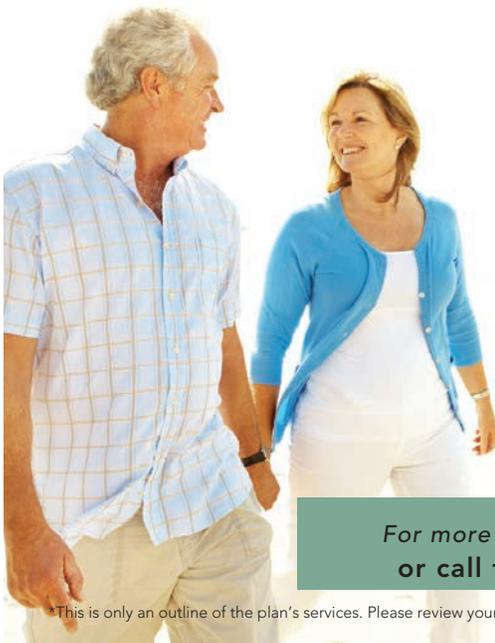


LT Adams was honored for her outstanding contributions, both domestically and internationally, for the prevention and control of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases. LT Adams currently serves as the Activity Lead for the Data Analyses and Data Management group in the Dengue Branch with CDC's Division of Vector-borne Diseases.

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Greater NY COA 4th Annual Anchor & Caduceus Dining Out



Photo credit is due to LCDR Melinda Ruiz.

by LCDR George Pourakis, MD, MPH, Greater New York COA President

LT Patricia Ellis, MS, RDN, CPH

CDR Yonette R. Hercules Greene, PA-C

On 21 April 2018, the Greater New York COA Branch held its Fourth Annual Anchor & Caduceus Dinner at the Raritan Yacht Club in Perth Amboy, NJ. The branch was honored to have as its distinguished guests, retired Army Col. James Currie, National COA Executive Director, and retired USPHS Capt. Robert Amler, MD, current Dean of Public Health and Vice-President for Government Affairs at New York Medical College and former HHS Regional Health Administrator for Region 2 (2003-2005). CDR Yonette R. Hercules-Greene served as the Mistress of Ceremonies and was outstanding in facilitating the fine naval traditions of dining out.

Currie provided an emboldened account of how National COA is advocating on behalf of all Commissioned Corps Officers. The current challenges discussed included Health Professions Special Pays as well as the disparaging language in the recent OMB budget proposal. His dedication for serving as an advocate for the Commissioned Corps was clearly displayed by his impassioned remarks.

Amler served as the keynote speaker and gave an informative and visionary lecture on the transformation of public health in the age of technology. Diverse examples of technology-driven opportunities in public health were identified. Furthermore, he challenged each officer present to exploit the advances of technology for the benefit of public health and become the person that makes public health work better, smarter, and more practically. For the first time at a Greater New York COA Dining Out, we were able to offer Continuing Education credit through the National Board of Public Health Examiners.

Special acknowledgements are due to the Workgroup Chair for this event, LT Patricia Ellis, as well as her Vice-Chair, LCDR Jonathan Blonk.

The Greater New York COA Branch is sincere in its hope that officers, spouses, and friends across the country will join us for our Fifth Annual Anchor & Caduceus Dining Out in 2019.

Rishi Manchanda

Physician
Founder and President,
HealthBegins
Author, *The Upstream
Doctors*



Luther Terry Keynote

Tuesday, June 5
@ Renaissance Dallas Addison
phscf.org/plenary-sessions

Ongoing Commitment to the Mission as a Commissioned Corps Officer

by LCDR Kristen Cole and LT Neil Barranta

Competing in the 2017 Army Ten Miler (ATM) Run on October 8, 2017, was a tough feat for LT Neil Barranta. LT Barranta ran the ATM only twenty-three days after returning from back-to-back deployments in response to hurricanes in Texas and Florida.

LT Neil Barranta is assigned to the National Institutes of Health. He served during the ATM as one of the USPHS flag bearers. LT Barranta was a first-time runner at the ATM, and his preparation for the event included running early in the morning for three weeks during his deployments to Texas and Florida. Participating in the event as a USPHS flag bearer immediately after deployments following Hurricanes Harvey and Irma was very important to LT Barranta. He had deployed with 79 USPHS officers as part of Rapid Deployment Force, Team 5. He was initially deployed on August 24 for two weeks to Houston, TX, to staff Federal Medical Stations. Then on the night of September 9 he deployed to several locations in West Florida, including Fort Myers and Sarasota County, in response to Hurricane Irma.



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RIST-NCR Team Member Deployments for Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, and Irma



RIST-NCR Officers deployed to the EMG at the HHS SOC in support of the HHS response for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, October 2017.
L-R: CDR Jonathan Kwan, LCDR Karen Chaves, CDR Qiao Bobo, CDR Cheksha Clingman

CDR Qiao Bobo, CDR Tara Bizjak, CDR Mellissa Walker, CDR James Cowher, CDR Jonathan Kwan, CDR Judy Facey, CDR Quynh-Van Tran, CDR Sukhminder Sandhu, CDR Simleen Kaur, LCDR Karen Chaves, LCDR Jessica Cleck-Derenick, LCDR Linda Park, CDR Carolyn Volpe, CDR Vicky Chan, CAPT Sally Hu

The Regional Incident Support Team (RIST) - National Capital Region (NCR) was established in 2009 as a Tier 1 team to respond to and support public health emergencies, threats of national significance, and natural/human-caused adverse events in the national capital region. Currently, RIST-NCR is comprised of thirty USPHS officer responders who are prepared to deploy within twelve hours of activation. Since its establishment, RIST-NCR has responded to and supported some fifty-two public health emergencies and significant events.

From August to December 2017, RIST-NCR deployed seventeen officers in the Washington, DC, area and in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico in support of the response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. RIST-NCR members were tasked to augment key positions outside their normal training and deployment roles to support hurricane response efforts. Deployments varied from one week to four weeks, with an average of two weeks for each officer.

In the Washington, DC, area, RIST-NCR officers deployed to the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Operation Center, DHHS Mission Support Center in Frederick, MD, and the FEMA headquarters, working with multiple OPDIVS and Staff DIVS, including the Emergency Management Group, Resource Mobilization Section, Critical Infrastructure Protection Branch, and

Information Management Group. Officers filled diverse roles such as preparing rosters, writing health advisories and safety plans, monitoring deployed personnel, tracking resources, allocating critical supplies such as fuel to those who needed them most, facilitating information management, functioning as liaisons to private industry, and preparing senior leadership briefings and situation reports.

CDR Tara Bizjak was deployed to San Juan, PR, for four weeks in response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria. She was the Deputy Operations Section Chief, managing over 700 medical responders from ASPR NDMS and USPHS in support of Hurricane Maria relief efforts in Puerto Rico. Mission activities included hospital emergency room decompression, community medical outreach to those unable to leave their homes, and establishment and management of federal medical shelters.

CDR Mellissa Walker was deployed to Dallas and Austin, TX, for ten days, then to Orlando and Miramar, FL, for ten more days in response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. She was the Assistant Safety Officer, leading three Assistant Incident Response Coordination Team Safety Officers to safeguard the health and welfare and site conditions for more than 500 responders providing health care to over 5000 patients in ten cities and two states.

Officers interested in serving on a RIST should contact team leadership regarding the specific eligibility requirements and the application process, as well as expectations for serving as a team member.

PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation

Donations Received, April 1 to April 30, 2018

Founder's Society (\$2,500)

Mr. Michael D. Terry
CAPT Jason J. Woo ^

Silver (\$250)

CAPT James L. Bresette (Ret.)
RADM George A. Reich (Ret.) ^

Bronze (\$100)

CDR Maria D. Benke ^
LCDR Titania M. Brownlee ^

CAPT Delwin K. Buckhold (Ret.)
LCDR Mateusz Karwowski ^
CAPT James A. Keene (Ret.)
CAPT Herbert F. Klein (Ret.)
CAPT Mehran S. Massoudi
CAPT Michelle A. Pelkey
CAPT Darla D. Whitfield ^
CDR Anne K. Whitis ^

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CAPT George A. Durgin, Jr.
CDR Elizabeth A. Hastings ^
CAPT John J. Henderson (Ret.)
CAPT Sherlene B. Jacques ^
CDR James L. Kenney, III

^ C. Everett Koop Living Legacy Fund
All other donations were made to the COF General Fund



Donation Levels

Leadership Society. . . .	\$10,000
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Founder's Society. . . .	\$2,500
Platinum.	\$1,000
Gold.	\$500
Silver.	\$250
Bronze.	\$100

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We Welcome New Members of COA, April 1 to April 30, 2018

LT Ashley Channels
CDR Joseph Collins
LT Jennifer Franke
LCDR William Harris, Jr.
LT Alyson Johnson
LT Rocklyn LeBeau
CDR Filita Long
LT Phuong Luong
LT Drew Lusby
ENS Lucy Ma
LCDR Karen Ritscher
CDR Tangeneare Singh
LT Santhosh Thomas
CDR Andrew Yang

COA Donations

Commissioned Officers
Association
of the USPHS Donations
Received,
April 1 to April 30, 2018
LCDR Jennifer J. Clements

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR from page 1

disease. What the story didn't say was that Dr. Goldberger was a physician in the U.S. Public Health Service.

I am always looking for opportunities to promote the Commissioned Corps, and this seemed like a good one, so I drafted a letter and sent it to the editor of the magazine. I was pleased when I received an email saying that it would be published in the next issue. Here's the way it appeared in the April issue of *Smithsonian*:

Hamsters of the Corn

Your article about wild hamsters on farmland in France ("Cereal Killers") discusses the work of Dr. Joseph Goldberger, who discovered that pellagra is caused by a dietary deficiency. What you don't mention was that Goldberger was an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, a little-known organization whose roots go back to 1798. Today's USPHS officers deploy to the field and fight disease just as Goldberger did. This 6,500-member corps of professionals deserves to have its part in the fight against disease recognized by *Smithsonian*.

— James T. Currie, Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS | Landover, Maryland

Smithsonian Magazine has a readership of 3.2 million, and the typical reader has some college education, so we reached a desirable audience with this letter, which took me all of fifteen minutes to draft and send. I am telling this story because you as USPHS officers can take the same type of action to enhance knowledge of the Commissioned Corps.

At the local branch level you can take the stories you send to *Frontline* and send them to your local newspaper. This won't work if you try the *Los Angeles Times* or *The Washington Post* or the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. None of these dailies are likely to run a story of the sort that you submit to *Frontline*. But weeklies like the *Fairfax County (VA) Gazette*, the *Montgomery County (MD) Sentinel*, the *Dallas (TX) Observer*, the *Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram*, the *Oklahoma Gazette*, the *SF Weekly* are much more likely to run what you send them. The list of weeklies and alternative newspapers is endless. The one thing they all have in common is that they are looking for local news to fill the space between the ads. If you do not subscribe to the local weekly paper or know whether you have one in your community, it's really easy to find out. Just Google "[name of town] weekly newspaper," and something is almost certain to pop up.

I had a friend in Mississippi who sold soap for Procter & Gamble. He was very good at it, and he won many awards for his sales prowess. We both lived in the small town (population, 12,000) of Clinton, MS, whose local paper was a weekly called the *Clinton News*. Every

time my friend won an award I would take a photo of him with his trophy, write a story about the award, and send it to the News. The best quotation I ever attributed to him was, "I owe it all to those clean Mississippi folks and all the baths they take!" They never failed to print one of these stories. I made him into a local celebrity, and after he retired from P&G he ran for the local Board of Aldermen, was elected on his first try for public office, and still serves on the board. Think about how much more you can do to publicize the Commissioned Corps with your better-than-selling-Irish-Spring-Soap accomplishments!

You can make the Commissioned Corps into a local celebrity by publicizing what you do as members of it. You can write about your deployments, just as you do for *Frontline*. You can write about the public service projects you do as COA branches. I promise you, there is an audience for your accomplishments, and all of us need to think about how we can raise the profile of the Commissioned Corps. Send your stories to me, and I'll edit them for *Frontline*. After we publish them in *Frontline* you can still submit them to your local news media.

There are opportunities for raising public awareness of the Commissioned Corps confronting us all the time, though they may not always be obvious at first glance. After all, who would ever have thought that an article about French hamsters would be a vehicle for publicizing the Commissioned Corps? These opportunities may be in national publications, or they may be in local publications. You all are spread throughout the country, and you do wonderful things for our country. It's just that no one knows about you, and even when they know about you, they sometimes forget. We must continually remind them.

COA Government Relations Director Judy Rensberger and I were on Capitol Hill earlier this week meeting with the House Appropriations Committee staffer who handles the HHS budget. She was very knowledgeable, and because she had once worked at HHS, she knows the Commissioned Corps. I asked her about any enemies the Corps has on Capitol Hill, and her response was interesting.

"The Commissioned Corps is virtually unknown on Capitol Hill. The members who know it exists are favorable, because they know the Corps because of deployments to their district." She said she didn't know of any enemies on the Hill. "It's just not well known," she told us. That's what we want to change.

I am always available to provide advice on how to reach out to your local news media or whether I think an idea is worth pursuing. We at COA headquarters will continue to do everything we can on behalf of the Commissioned Corps, but 5400 active COA members can do much more along these lines than can the six of us in our little office in Landover, MD.

LEGISLATIVE from page 2

seriously contend that CDC is prohibited from conducting research on gun violence. Congress has said that it can, and that is a very good thing. But will adequate funding follow? We won't know until appropriations bills for FY 2019 start coming together.

H.R. 1478 still sits in the Energy and Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives, where it has been for more than a year. The committee does not appear poised to report it out, despite the flurry of recent interest.

Without committee action, it will die when the 115th Congress concludes at the end of the year. Moreover, there is no Senate companion to H.R. 1478.

More promising, I think, is the campaign to secure a \$50 million Congressional appropriation for CDC to resume robust research on gun violence. If you wish to help the cause by writing to your elected officials (on your own time, of course, using your own computer) I'm happy to advise. Just e-mail me at jrensberger@coausphs.org

The COA (ISSN 10937161) is published monthly except a combined issue January/February and July/August by the Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service, 8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 1170, Landover,

MD 20785, (301) 731-9080; Fax: (301) 731-9084; Periodicals Postage Paid at Hyattsville, MD and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to COA c/o Commissioned Officers Association, 8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 1170, Landover, MD 20785. A report of timely information concerning activities of the

Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. Distributed exclusively to Association Members.



COA

8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 1170
Landover, MD 20785

Executive Director

Jim Currie
jcurrie@coausphs.org

Deputy Executive Director

John McElligott
jmcelligott@coausphs.org

Chief Financial Officer

Teresa Hayden Foley
thayden@coausphs.org

Government Relations Director

Judith Rensberger
jrensberger@coausphs.org

Program Assistant

Donna Sparrow
dsparrow@coausphs.org

Administrative Assistant

Erica Robinson
erobinson@coausphs.org

Conference Planners

Leading Edge Solutions
Tim O'Neil/Diana Hallman
(866) 544-9677

Producer

Curveball Media, Victor Perea

Group Insurance - AGIA

(888) 633-6459

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