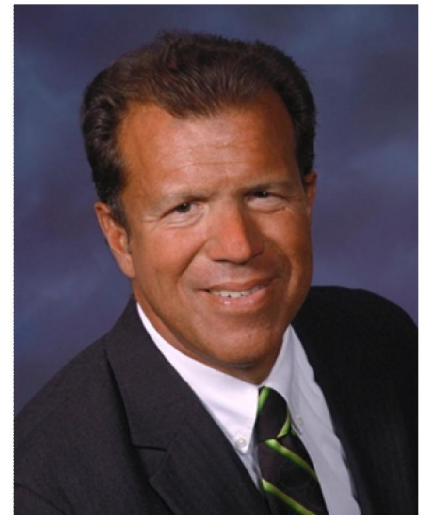




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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: David E. Cowgill receives National Office of Personnel Management's Hero Award at White House Ceremony.

PITTSBURGH – July 27, 2007 – David E. Cowgill, Public Affairs Officer for VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and VA Healthcare - VISN 4, received the National OPM CFC Hero Award for his hard work and dedication to the 2006 Combined Federal Campaign. Nominations were received from all 50 states for consideration for this prestigious award. Cowgill went above and beyond dedicating his time to lead a campaign that raised \$178,282.94 for local, national and international charities. The award was presented to Cowgill by the OPM National Director, Linda M. Springer, during a special ceremony at the White House on July 26.



"It is an honor to have been selected to receive the CFC National Hero award and to have had the opportunity to have made an impact toward this charitable campaign," said Mr. Cowgill.

Mr. Cowgill was appointed as the VAPHS CFC Chairperson and given the task of dramatically revitalizing the 2006 Combined Federal Campaign at VAPHS. Mr. Cowgill was not given any formal goal or guidance. He was simply given the objective of turning the campaign around and increasing both employee participation and amount contributed.

Through an impressive fundraising and marketing campaign, VAPHS achieved the most successful Combined Federal Campaign in its history. \$178,282.94 in donations were collected for local, national, and international charities (a 145.3% increase from the 2005 campaign); 1,155 pledges were received (a 332.6% increase from 2005); and 38% of VAPHS employees contributed (only 8.8% contributed in 2005). More money was collected in the 2006 campaign than in 2005 and 2004 combined.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the Federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. It continues to be the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world. The CFC is held once a year, in the fall, in all federal agencies all across the country.