



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Surgeon General of the
Public Health Service
Rockville MD 20857

Oct 30, 1986

The Honorable Robert Tisch
Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Tisch:

January 4, 1989 commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the establishment by Congress of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. The men and women of the Corps represent the Nation's mobile force of health professionals, structured along military lines, subject to duty anywhere assigned by the Surgeon General.

The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service, the health component of the Department of Health and Human Services, is to promote the protection and advancement of the health of the American people--in short, improving the Nation's health. The Commissioned Corps is that part of the Public Health Service which can be, and frequently is, called upon to take assignments to respond to health crises and changing health problems domestically and internationally. The Commissioned Corps is comprised of some 5400 active duty officers trained in the various health disciplines. These men and women are physicians, dentists, nurses, engineers, dietitians, health service officers, pharmacists, therapists, scientists, sanitarians and veterinarians. They work in patient care, research, education and administration.

Their commitment to serving the Nation has made it possible for the PHS to respond to staffing needs of the Indian Health Service, the National Health Service Corps, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the medical programs of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the U.S. Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Peace Corps, the World Health Organization, and state and local health departments.

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Commissioned Officers are called upon to shift duties in order to respond to natural disasters and national emergencies. Officers are in the forefront of assistance in times of floods, earthquakes and epidemics, from smallpox, tuberculosis, and diphtheria, to research in Toxic Shock Syndrome and AIDS.

The long tradition of the men and women of the Commissioned Corps demonstrates their ability to meet the changing health needs of the Nation and the World. They share a proud and distinguished history suitable for commemoration of its 100th Anniversary in 1989.

We hope very much that you will consider this request. I stand prepared to provide appropriate assistance in achieving this recognition for the men and women who have served over the past century to improve the health of people worldwide.

Sincerely yours,

C. Everett Koop, M.D.
Surgeon General
U.S. Public Health Service