

My Comments to the Agency's Supplemental Report of Investigation OSC File No. DI-13-2584

The **Resolution** for **Recommendation 2** was insulting—a mere slap on the hand. James “Jim” H. Whelan, RPh, then Acting Pharmacy Chief and now Associate Chief of Pharmacy Operations was *only* counseled then returned to his previously-held position, which is questionable because I do not remember the Assistant/Associate Chief of Pharmacy Service position ever actually being officially posted as an opening. Jim was the Supervisory Pharmacist for the Inpatient [Pharmacy] Section when I began working at GVSM VAMC in Aug 2008. Then after Renée E. Smith, PharmD, transferred to GVSM VAMC and assumed Jim’s former, revised position as Inpatient Pharmacy Supervisor/Residency Program Manager, Jim just quietly slid into an unofficial “Acting” Assistant Chief of Pharmacy Service role under the former GVSM VAMC Chief of Pharmacy Service, Susan C. Nichols, PharmD, before she was supposedly “demoted” and a new position allegedly created especially for her to fill while she waited to become the new—and now former—Chief of Pharmacy Service at the New Orleans VAMC (Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System). Ellen Hopkins, RPh, became the Pharmacy Supervisor of Inpatient [Pharmacy] Operations after Renée, who got a vertical promotion to Chief of Pharmacy Service at the Birmingham VAMC, and her husband Jeff Smith, a GVSM VAMC Staff Pharmacist who got a Clinical Pharmacist job at the same Birmingham VAMC as his wife Renée, both left GVSM VAMC subsequent to my complaint of nepotism against them. Regardless, I have stood my ground for myself, my fellow Veterans and my co-workers, and what has the Department of Veterans’ Affairs done for me—a service-disabled, honorably-discharged Veteran! Well, current and former employees of the VA have **charged** me AWOL for going and exercising my right to vote in primary- and general elections, **sabotaged** (oops...mismanaged) my worker’s compensation claims causing me to go **without** wage-loss- and medical benefits for my on-the-job injuries for almost 3 years and leading to the loss of my home; **did not** abide by the DOL-approved permanent medical restrictions and activity limitations, **notified me that I shall be terminated from active employment at GVSM VAMC even though I am out on orthopedist-ordered medical leave for on-the-job injuries sustained at GVSM VAMC**, etc. So, Jim’s “punishment” was more like a fist-bump urging him on to continue business as usual at the Jackson VA.

Note: Please refer to the submitted GVSM VAMC Pharmacy Organizational Charts