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Mr. William E. Reukauf
Associate Special Counsel
U. S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 218
Washington, DC 20036

Re: OSC File No. DI-11-1580

Dear Mr. Reukauf,

I am writing in response to your reply/findings of allegations against Dr. Mary Fazekas-May, Chief of Surgery. Your letter states that you have reviewed the report and concur with the conclusion that there is no validity to my allegations. As I watch the world news reports, late night TV talk shows, and last but not least the President's State of the Union address, it is clearly evident how President Obama is treated and talked about on national television. President Obama, who happens to be an African-American male, holds the highest government office in this country and is continuously roasted by his subordinates within Congress and the Senate. In my opinion, it seems like he is "under fire" because he is a Democrat; however, I tend to believe it may be more so because he is an African American male holding the highest government office in our country. As an African American male, and a former Administrative Officer (GS-13), Surgery Service at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Healthcare System (SLVHCS), I should not have expected my outcome to be any different.

It deeply saddens me that as a veteran of our country's Armed Forces that I would be treated the way I was when I was terminated from the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Healthcare System. At the end of President Obama's term, I would like to be pardoned from the termination I received while working with the Department of Veteran Affairs. I was terminated within 6 months of hire without ever being counseled (verbally or written), then humiliated by being escorted from the facility by federal police. I truly believed that looking out for the government best interests would have been regarding as positive on my end. However, it has caused me more grief than I could have ever imagined. My Federal Service Record as well as my federal career has been assassinated, my home nearly destroyed, my quantity of life has been compromised, and my family has had to suffer. Fortunately, you are still employed and probably have not been placed in a position to lose just about everything you have worked for. I could deal with such a loss on my own, but it is devastating for me to watch my family experience this.

I have dedicated my entire adult life to serving this country and serving veterans within the health care system. My education, which was paid for through tuition assistance and student loans is in healthcare management and administration. Overseeing the helping of people medically and clinically as either a healthcare manager or a hospital administrator is all I basically know how to do. As a supervisor, I would have found training for an employee that has been on the job 6 months instead of terminating them. More so for a veteran who served this country faithfully, I would have gone above and beyond to find a way to keep the veteran employed within the Veterans Administration. Again, I was escorted off of the facility by federal police.

I have written several people within the Senate, Congress, and the chain of command within the Department of Veteran Affairs, concerning my situation and to no avail, no resolution. Is this how we treat what you call "Our Nation's Heroes"? The one thing I know I am extremely guilty of up to this point is believing that the system would actually work for me. That facility has spent *millions of dollars*

on an Ambulatory Procedure Unit (APU) with state of the art surgical equipment where rain enters the trailers during a good storm. The Director has had to place other managers in the APU to try to get it running at the capacity it is supposed to be running at. The managers in charge of that project received a "slap on the hand" and a reassignment to another Service Line.

In conclusion, I will continue to find work so my family does not continue to suffer. If veterans are treated the way I have been, I can certainly understand why we have so many that are homeless and without work. I believe we are simply misunderstood. We are taught to "do the right thing" when the right things seems to get you unemployed and possibly without credibility. I do want it to be known that Lynn Alexander is to be commended for her attention to detail with working to resolve this matter. Ms. Alexander was not biased in any way and still found a way to be sympathetic and understanding to what I was going through while collecting her facts. Ms. Alexander as well as Ms. McMullen was forthright with assisting me in working with your system. I only wish that there were more people within the system that conducted themselves the way that those two have.

Respectfully,
Wendell R. Bates, MSHS, USN. Ret
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