



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES,
AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: The Secretary's Labor-Management Relations Award

It gives me great pleasure to announce the establishment of a Secretary's award to recognize successful labor-management relationships in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Throughout VA, management and labor are working together to improve services to veterans and their families, as well as creating a positive work environment for our valued employees. It is only right that we recognize those efforts through an annual award program.

Unions represent over 160,000 VA employees. Most of these employees are in positions where direct care, benefits, or memorial services are being provided. VA's unions, in representing these employees' workplace needs, are in a unique position to collaborate with management on making program improvements and, in doing so, making VA a great place to work.

Each year, I plan to recognize those labor-management relationships that have the greatest impact on improving services or improving VA's workplace. A Departmental trophy will be awarded along with trophies in four other categories for achievement in health care, benefits, memorial services and other programs.

The Office of Labor-Management Relations is the sponsor of this annual award program. A copy of the program announcement and nomination form is attached. Additional copies can be downloaded from the Labor-Management Relations website at <http://www.va.gov/LMR/>. I ask that you promote this award program within your organization and encourage deserving parties to apply and share the accomplishments they have made that are worthy of recognition.


Anthony J. Principi

Attachment