



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
INSPECTOR GENERAL  
WASHINGTON DC 20420

NOV 6 2013

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Reflecting back on a career that began in 1969, I have come to the decision that after 44 years of Federal service it is time to retire and devote my attention and future years to my family and personal interests. Therefore, I will resign my position as the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) effective December 31, 2013. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you and President Bush as the VA Inspector General, and also to have previously served President Clinton as the Inspector General of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The last 8 years leading the dedicated men and women of the VA Office of Inspector General have been among the most personally rewarding of my career. There are few nobler callings in the Federal government than to work on behalf of America's veterans and their families to ensure they receive the benefits and care earned in service to our Nation. OIG reports and investigations have led to important improvements in how VA protects veterans' sensitive information, provides access to high quality mental health care, and ensures clean and safe environments wherever reusable medical equipment is used. At a time when Americans are asking for more efficient Government programs, reductions in waste, and greater accountability, during my 8-year tenure as Inspector General, the OIG has achieved \$21.3 billion in monetary impact, either through recommendations to VA in program efficiencies or in criminal fines, penalties, and sanctions representing a return on investment of \$31 for every dollar invested in the OIG's budget.

I wish to express my appreciation to and respect for Secretary Shinseki and former Secretaries Peake and Nicholson, who supported the OIG's work as an independent oversight organization. Their commitment to improving the lives of America's veterans has been unwavering.

I wish you continued success as you lead our great Nation. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the American people.

Very respectfully,

*George J. Opfer*  
GEORGE J. OPFER