

*“Change is the law of life, and those who only look to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.”* President John F. Kennedy

I am writing today to let you know that after nearly 43 ½ years of Federal service, I will be retiring on Independence Day, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to serve with you at the VA OIG for more than 14 years, and to have worked with such a dedicated team of men and women who have constantly demonstrated their courage, integrity, and passionate commitment on behalf of our Nation’s veterans.

Your collective efforts and hard work have resulted in a remarkable record of performance and outstanding achievements. I stand humbled by the enormity of your accomplishments. In the last 6 years alone, the VA OIG has accounted for 1,931 reports; 11,350 arrests, indictments, convictions, and administrative sanctions; \$22.5 billion in monetary impact; and a Return on Investment of \$36 for every \$1 invested in VA OIG operations. In fact, in April 2015, the Brookings Center for Effective Management named the VA OIG the second most productive OIG organization in the Federal government based on the last 5 years’ return on investment. In terms of transparent reporting to Congress, OIG staff have testified at 76 congressional hearings and delivered 452 briefings on problems in VA operations and programs and ideas on how to solve them. In recognition of the value of VA OIG oversight, our budget has increased by 31 percent (from \$87.8 million to \$126.4 million), which has allowed us to grow our workforce from 522 FTE to 711 FTE.

These extraordinary accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency has recognized 25 VA OIG projects with Awards for Excellence; various U.S. Attorneys, other Federal agencies, and professional societies have recognized VA OIG employees with 23 awards for investigative excellence or distinguished career accomplishments; and the prestigious Presidential Rank Award—the Nation’s highest civil service award—has gone to VA OIG senior executives on 6 occasions. One of the most gratifying pieces of recognition was not an actual award: in 2014, your feedback to the Office of Personnel Management’s annual employee viewpoint survey resulted in the Partnership for Public Service ranking the VA OIG 33<sup>rd</sup> (within the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile) among 315 Federal agencies on their “Best Places To Work in Federal Government” list, and the second highest ranked OIG in Government.

Thanks also for your overwhelming generosity year after year in support of the Combined Federal Campaign, the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots campaign, Feds Feed Families, and other charitable events. Clearly you understand what is truly important in life.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I can inform you that Lin Halliday, who has served as our Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations since 2012, will be promoted to the Deputy IG position effective July 5<sup>th</sup>. She is an outstanding leader who will take our organization to new levels of excellence. Lin has served in an executive leadership capacity since December 2007 when she was first appointed to the Senior Executive Service as the Deputy AIG for Auditing, where she was responsible for assisting the AIG in planning and directing all Office of Audits projects. In April 2010, Lin became the Deputy AIG for Field

Operations, where she excelled in leading seven regional audit offices that produced a series of highly regarded national audits with billions of dollars in monetary impact that substantially changed the way VA operates many of its major programs. She has worked for the VA OIG for 23 years.

Before joining us in 1992, Lin worked in varied and progressively responsible positions throughout her 30-year Federal career, acquiring technical and management experience in disciplines such as strategic planning, policy, financial management, budget, and contract and grants management. She has worked at the Veterans Health Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Defense Contract Audit Agency where she evaluated financial management systems and health care programs. She began her Federal career in 1975 as the Accounting Officer at the VA Medical Center in East Orange, New Jersey.

Lin has been recognized with numerous awards throughout her career, including several by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency for outstanding audit projects. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of Bridgeport, completed the Leadership VA Program in 2004, graduated from the Federal Executive Institute in 2002, is currently enrolled in Harvard University's Executive Education Program, and is a Certified Internal Auditor.

In closing, thank you for your outstanding service to our Country, and "May the Lord hold you in the palm of His hand."

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