



Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

August 17, 2016

Mr. Craig Menear, President and CEO
Home Depot
2455 Paces Ferry Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30339

Dear Mr. Menear:

I wrote you back in March of this year about the discounts that Home Depot does not give to officers in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). I never heard from you, so I am trying again to direct your attention to what you are missing.

As I said in my earlier letter, officers in the USPHS are members of one of this country's seven uniformed services, along with Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There are only seven federally-recognized uniformed services, and just like the Army, Navy, so on, PHS officers wear military uniforms, have military rank, receive military pay and benefits, receive military medals for their service, deploy where our country needs them, and—most important for you—carry uniformed service ID cards that are identical to those carried by members of the Army, Navy, etc. They can easily be distinguished as a uniformed service member by these IDs. They are not to be confused with other groups like police, firefighters, Customs and Border Protection, Transportation Security Administration, US Marshals, or Secret Service, all of which may wear uniforms but do not carry the DoD ID. PHS officers are distinctly apart from these other worthy groups of public servants, as they are organized on military lines and may work their way up through military ranks to admiral. They are recognized as veterans by federal statute, which is something that members of these other groups are not.

They are also all commissioned officers, which means that their disposable income is far higher than that of the average civilian. And Home Depot has basically ceded their business to your arch-competitor, Lowe's, which does grant the 10% discount to these officers. I am writing you because I actually prefer your stores to Lowe's and shop routinely in the Home Depot on Richmond Highway in Alexandria, VA, where I receive the 10% discount because I am retired Army. Our members, however, all 6600 of them, are patronizing your competitor because you have not seen the advantage of offering PHS officers the same discount you offer to members of the military, however you define that.

From a business point of view I find this most difficult to understand. Have you looked at the military pay tables recently? Try Googling it. These folks are golden. And you are losing them. If you do grant the 10% discount, we will publicize it in our monthly newsletter, which goes to 6000 PHS officers. It sounds to me like a deal you wouldn't want to pass on.

Sincerely,

Col. James T. Currie, USA (ret.)
Executive Director