



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

July 19, 2017

Mr. Robert Niblock
Chairman, President and CEO
Lowe's, Inc.
1000 Lowe's Boulevard
Mooresville, NC 28117

Dear Mr. Niblock:

How disappointing! All along I had assumed that the recent change in Lowe's website, under which officers in the U.S. Public Health Service were made ineligible for the 10 percent military discount, was merely an oversight on the part of someone managing the website. I was wrong. Just this morning one of our members, who tells me that he shops at Lowe's as opposed to Home Depot because Lowe's gives him the discount, has informed me that Lowe's has now changed its website to make the exclusion policy official. Here's what he sent me, which he says is a direct capture from your website:

- **Who is eligible for the Lowe's military discount?**
 - **Anyone serving in or a veteran of the US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard, Reserves or the National Guard and their spouse and/or dependent children up to 18 years old.**
 - **Not Eligible:**
 - **Dishonorably discharged veterans**
 - **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned officers**
 - **United States Public Health Services (USPHS)**

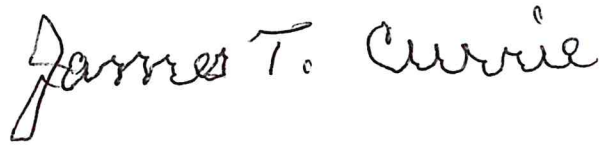
I am really surprised at Lowe's. You all have been offering this discount to the uniformed officers of the U.S. Public Health Service for many years. Why the sudden change? Do you not believe them deserving of it? How about the nearly-900 PHS officers who deployed with U.S. armed forces to Iraq and Afghanistan? Are they not deserving of the discount? How about the thousands of PHS officers who deployed when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit our Gulf Coast? Are they not deserving of the discount? How about the hundreds of PHS officers who deployed to West Africa to fight the deadly Ebola virus? Are they not deserving of the discount?

So many communities in which Lowe's has its centers have been directly aided by USPHS officers when disaster has struck, yet Lowe's has apparently decided to change its policy and deny the discount to them. Perhaps you or someone in the Lowe's hierarchy simply does not understand officers in the U.S. Public Health Service. They are members of one of only seven uniformed services of the federal government. They carry Defense Department-issued Common Access Cards, which are the ID cards of today's uniformed services, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. They wear the same uniforms as the Navy. They receive military pay and benefits, are veterans under federal law, and can even be buried in VA-administered cemeteries. If you saw one of them in uniform you would be hard-pressed to distinguish them from a member of the military.

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I ask you to reconsider your new policy and to revert to the way it has been for several years: extension of your 10 percent discount to members of all seven of the federal uniformed services. I am enclosing a brief explanation to tell you more about the U.S. Public Health Service and who its officers are.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Currie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "T" and "C".

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