



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

December 1, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Niblock:

Are you kidding me? I was just on your website and this is what I found:

1. 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)

Lowe's has lumped Public Health Service and NOAA officers in with dishonorably discharged veterans in making them ineligible for your 10 percent military discount. Did you deliberately set out to insult these officers, or was it done because you don't understand the nature of the Public Health Service officers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officers?

I have written to you before, and the only response I get is from some junior PR person who doesn't know anything about the military, the armed forces, the Public Health Service, or NOAA. I spent perhaps twenty minutes recently conversing with one Jackie Barnett. She was nice enough, but she is clueless. Please do not refer my letter to her.

As I have told you before—and maybe none of my letters have ever reached you--U.S. Public Health Service officers are federal veterans per 42 U.S. Code 213(d). They are as much veterans as are those who served in the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps.

Their Common Access Cards have "Uniformed Services" printed on them. Defense contractors' CACs do not have this. It is therefore quite easy to distinguish PHS and NOAA officers from contractors, so that is a bogus reason for denying the discount.

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We therefore request that Lowe's reinstate the discount for PHS and NOAA officers. I will willingly discuss this with anyone you designate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James T. Currie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

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