



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

April 5, 2018

Mr. Marshall O. Larsen  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UTC Aerospace Systems  
2730 West Tyvola Road  
Charlotte, NC 28217-4578

Dear Mr. Larsen:

As you undoubtedly know, Lowe's offers a 10% discount to members of the U.S. military. Until last May, it also offered that same discount to officers in the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For reasons that have never been revealed to us, Lowe's changed its policy at that time and eliminated the discount for USPHS and NOAA officers. I have been attempting fruitlessly to reach someone in authority at Lowe's since that time. I have been sending letters to your CEO for over a year, but I am sure he is not receiving them, as the only response I get is from some junior PR flack who doesn't understand what the seven uniformed services are. To compound the issue, a few months ago the Lowe's website specifically singled out USPHS and NOAA officers and lumped them with "dishonorably discharged veterans" as those to whom the discount would not be given. As a West Pointer yourself, you can imagine how insulting this is.

I'm not sure how much you know about the uniformed officers in the US Public Health Service. They actually wear Navy uniforms, unless they are assigned to the Coast Guard, for whom they provide healthcare. These officers deploy to the scenes of natural and manmade disasters, and almost 900 of them served in Iraq and Afghanistan alongside members of the US military. Over 300 of them deployed to Liberia to fight the Ebola virus in 2014 and 2015, and for this mission they were given a Presidential Unit Citation. These officers receive military pay and benefits, including commissary, exchange, and TRICARE, and they are veterans under federal law, entitled to be buried in VA cemeteries.

We hope that you as a senior leader at Lowe's will correct this misbegotten change in policy. We look forward to sharing good news with our members.

Sincerely,

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