



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

November 19, 2018

Mr. Vinny Scalise
Vice President of Store Operations, Lowe's, Inc.
1000 Lowe's Boulevard
 Mooresville, NC 28117

Dear Mr. Scalise:

For some time now I have been attempting to reach someone in authority at Lowe's. I have been sending letters to your CEO, but I am sure he is not receiving them, as the only response I get is from some junior PR flack.

Over two years ago I was in contact with Lowe's headquarters about you all offering the same 10 percent discount to officers in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) that Lowe's has long offered to members of the U.S. armed forces. After explaining what the U.S. Public Health Service is and what its officers do to defend our country against disease, I was pleased to receive an email from "Lorraine" at Lowe's Executive Support telling me that PHS officers would, in fact, be granted the discount.

We publicized this discount in our newsletter, giving Lowe's free publicity among a group of individuals with high disposable income. Many of our members have been patronizing Lowe's since then.

Now, Lowe's has changed its procedures and requires registration through a Lowe's website which does not allow USPHS officers to register. Furthermore, Lowe's has—perhaps unintentionally, but certainly without forethought—grossly insulted the officers of the US Public Health Service by declaring on its website that they and the officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are lumped with "dishonorably discharged veterans" as those to whom the military discount is not provided.

We realize that the uniformed officers of the USPHS—all 6500 of them—are not a well-known uniformed service. They have served with members of our country's military services in every war since 1898. They lost their lives during many of these conflicts. In recent years almost 900 of them have served alongside our military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. They routinely deploy from their day jobs to disaster sites throughout our country, including to the recent flooding in North Carolina. They wear military uniforms and receive military pay and benefits. They are veterans under federal law and can even be buried in VA cemeteries—perhaps the ultimate in veteran benefits. They march in Veterans Day parades and just a couple of weeks ago participated in the solemn events at Arlington National Cemetery on 11 November. They deserve better from Lowe's.

Sincerely,

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