

**Commissioned Officers Association of the
United States Public Health Service
SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

To go on local COA branch letterhead

{Fill in brackets with local chapter information}

If you have seen images of fellow Americans who have fallen victim to a natural disaster or public health emergency, you have probably also seen a member of the United States Public Health Service providing medical care. As President of the {CITY} branch of the Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service, I think it is important for people to know more about the work my colleagues here in {CITY} and around the country are doing.

When there is a natural or man-made disaster, USPHS Officers are there -- physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, engineers, therapists, dietitians, veterinarians and other medical experts. When they are not deployed on an emergency, they are working on the frontline against the spread of disease and at the forefront of the battles against AIDS, cancer, drug abuse, product tampering, obesity, injury control and homelessness.

As one of America's seven uniformed services, the Commissioned Corps is an essential component of our nation's health system and security. We work every day to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation, and we stand ready to serve in case of an emergency.

In {City}, we have ## officers working in the areas of {describe the professions and the work they are doing}. I am proud of the work they do day in and day out. And, I know they stand ready to be deployed when their nation calls for their help in an emergency.

The Commissioned Officers Association is the professional membership organization representing the interests of PHS Commissioned Corps officers and is no way affiliated with nor does the Association purport to speak for any department or agency of the federal government.