



“There are risks and costs to a program of action. But they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction.” John F. Kennedy

April 21, 2003

Greetings:

It is with much gratitude and pleasure that we accept the honor bestowed upon us by the Joint Veterans Committee to lead the 2003 Albany Memorial Day Parade as Grand Marshals.

As we reflect this Memorial Day on the many sacrifices made by this nation’s veterans of wars we feel greatly humbled by the honor of being selected for such a prestigious role. Our parade this year is particularly significant considering our recent war in Iraq. Iraq as in other wars and conflicts will send many veterans home to seek much deserved medical care at VA hospitals and clinics nationwide.

Although neither of us are military veterans; collectively we have dedicated over 43 years of service to our nation’s veterans as employees of the VA.

Daily, our soldiers take extreme risks to fight for this country’s freedom. The contributions made by them on our behalf of America’s citizens are immeasurable.

During the course of our years of federal service with the VA we too have felt the duty to take risks. These risks to our careers were to ensure that military veterans receive quality healthcare and medical services. Good medicine teaches us that benefits must always outweigh the potential risks of medical treatment. In speaking out we felt that the potential benefits for veterans far outweighed the risks to our careers.

During the years of our struggle to see wrongs made right, we remain proud to say that regardless of our VA employment outcomes, we can hold our heads high and know we did the right and just thing for all veterans.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for the honor that you have granted us during the Memorial Day celebration of 2003. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Jeffrey Fudin

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Date:

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Anthony R. Mariano

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Date:

Grand Marshals