



**Lawrence A. Biro**

## Network Director's Message

September 28, 2010



### *Thank you for my warm welcome to the Great State of Texas!*

I have the pleasure of serving Veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Heart of Texas Health Care Network (Dallas) as this is my second day as the Network Director.

Since March 4, 2007, I was the Network Director of the VA Southeast Network (Atlanta), in the tri-state region of Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina, directing eight medical centers and several community based outpatient clinics.

Prior to March 2007, I served a number of years as Network Director of the VA Rocky Mountain Network (Denver) and led the direction and operations for all VA hospitals, clinics, financial systems, and clinical programs in the Rocky Mountain States. My leadership in quality patient care resulted in the Network achieving the rank of First Place in meeting Veterans Health Administration (VHA) performance measures and standards in 2004 and 2005. By 2006, the Network was awarded with the VHA's prestigious *Kenneth W. Kizer Quality Achievement* and *Carey Performance Excellence* awards.

I also was the Network Director of the VA Stars & Stripes Healthcare Network (Pittsburgh), directing VA veterans' health care at VA's hospitals and clinics in Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, New Jersey, Ohio, and New York.

Prior to the VA, I had a successful tour of duty with the Department of State, where I served the Nation's diplomatic corps and their dependents as the Health Systems Administrator for the Office of Medical Services, directing the operations of more than 250 overseas embassy and consulate health care facilities.

I have memberships in several health care and Veterans' Service Organizations, including the American Legion. I was honored to receive the *Distinguished Presidential Rank Award* in 2004 and the *Meritorious Presidential Rank Award* in 2006, in recognition of my leadership in the Veterans health care community.

I proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam-era. I hold a doctorate in education from Loyola University of Chicago.

I look forward to visiting Veterans, staff and volunteers at our Network's four health care systems. I also would like to congratulate our newest health care system, the VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System (Harlingen), effective October 1, 2010, for their collaborative work and dedication to successfully enhance and expand quality services to the Veterans in Deep South Texas.

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