



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

February 24, 2022

Kirt P. Love
Director, DSBR
Former VA ACGWV 2009
Advocate since 1997

Dear Mr. Love,

Thank you for your service. The peace and freedom we enjoy as Americans have been secured by the sacrifices of generations of Veterans like you. VA remains committed to honoring our Nation's Veterans by ensuring a safe environment to deliver exceptional health care.

Thank you for your past service and contributions on the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (RACGWVI). While I did not have the privilege to meet past members, I am confident your work and theirs was highly valued. It is also clear from your message that you have continued to work hard on behalf of Gulf War Veterans (GWV) concerns. Your comments and concerns have been duly noted.

Our highest priorities are providing all our Veterans timely, world-class health care; ensuring that they and their families have access to the benefits they have earned; and honoring our Veterans with a final resting place that is a lasting tribute to their service.

Research is critical in accomplishing these priorities, in part, as it informs VA care and policy. The RACGWVI is a nominated group of scientific and clinical subject matter experts, community leaders, and Gulf War Veterans who dedicate their personal time in support of the Committee's charge to advise me about VA-funded research relevant to the understanding and treating all health consequences of military service during the 1990-91 Gulf War.

The Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses:

- Is authorized by Public Law 105-368 § 104 and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) App. 2.
- Operates under its charter to accomplish its mission and full scope of activities.
- Invites the stakeholders to present their concerns at public meetings.

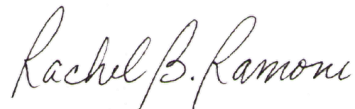
Page 2.

Kirt P. Love

The committee, under Chairman Lawrence Steinman, has expanded the lines of communication between the Gulf War community and the RACGWVI Committee through the initiation of the Veterans Engagement Subcommittee (VES), established in 2019. The outreach of this subcommittee provides opportunities for GWV to describe their past and continuing health concerns including conditions related to aging and COVID. The VES has directly led to increased attendance and participation of GWV and those who care for them by over 100-fold. The Committee takes each Veterans testimony, including your outreach, in consideration when determining agenda topics, inviting outside speakers, and making recommendations. Together, these actions prospectively guide the direction of the research.

Our respect for the Veterans we serve, fellow VA employees, and volunteers is critical to everything we do. Every single one of us is called upon to uphold our VA Values of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence. These core I-CARE values define who we are, our culture and how we care for Veterans and each other.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel B. Ramoni".

Rachel Ramoni, DMD, ScD
Chief Research and Development Officer