



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Syracuse VA Medical Center
800 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210

The President Honors Director of Syracuse VA Medical Center

James Cody, Syracuse VA Medical Center Director, Honored with the “ Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives” for Outstanding Service to Veterans

VA Deputy Secretary Scott Gould Presented the Award to Mr. Cody on July 29, 2010

Each year since the establishment of the Senior Executive Service in 1978, the President has conferred the ranks of Distinguished/Meritorious Federal Executives on a select group of career members of SES who have provided exceptional service to the American people over an extended period of time. Executives from across Government are nominated by their agency heads, evaluated by citizen panels, and honored by the President.

In ceremonies held on July 29, 2010 in Washington, D.C., Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Scott Gould, on behalf of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, presented James Cody, Director, Syracuse VA Medical Center, the prestigious Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive for his outstanding service to Veterans. Mr. Cody was one of 14 VA Executives so honored.

Since his arrival at the Syracuse VA in January 2000, and throughout his 32-year VA career, Mr. Cody has consistently demonstrated leadership, integrity, and commitment to the Veteran men and women VA serves. He has demonstrated success by balancing the needs and perspectives of Veteran patients, VA stakeholders, and VA staff with superb organizational results.

Most significantly, Syracuse VA, under Mr. Cody’s direction, continues to be among the highest ranked VA Medical Centers in the nation for Quality care and patient satisfaction in the most recent national surveys in FY 2009. Additionally, according to the triennial Joint Commission accreditation survey completed last fall, the Syracuse VA “demonstrated strong processes and compliance across all programs and the priority focus areas.” The survey team pointed out that Syracuse VA’s patient centered care and its compassionate staff as a significant organizational strength. In short, Syracuse VA has and continues to perform in an outstanding manner, under the capable leadership of James Cody.

Additionally, under his direction, Syracuse VA achieved significant growth; both in Veteran patient population and infrastructure. Since 1995, Syracuse VA unique Veterans population grew from 18,500 to nearly 41,000, served in 2009. To accommodate this growth, the facility has achieved a tremendous degree of building and program expansions since his arrival, which has translated into superb care for Veterans, as indicated by the patients themselves, as well as nationally recognized quality measurements. These include a state-of-the-art Emergency Department, CT and MRI Units, a new main entrance way, expanded parking facility and the much awaited \$90+ million Spinal Cord/Spinal Disease Center, slated for completion in December 2012. The facility

also created a special OEF(Operation Enduring Freedom)/OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) program focusing on the needs of combat Veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. The Women's Health Center, located on the 2nd floor, provides a medical team specializing in women's health issues in an environment of privacy, sensitivity and confidentiality.

Syracuse VA is honored that the President Obama has chosen to recognize Mr. Cody for his noteworthy leadership accomplishments with respect to the efforts of the more than 1,400 employees providing service to our Central New York Veteran community.

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