



RADM William Lynch, MC, USNR
National VP for Health Programs

It is the end of September, and my monthly Health Affairs article is due to NRA Headquarters in a few days. By the time you read this brief article, the NRA National Fall Conference will be over and a new VP for Health Programs elected. In addition, November 1st will have come and gone; and I will have joined the ranks of the Retired Reserve.

It is time to say thanks to all who have made my tenure as your VP for Health Programs a memorable and rewarding experience. RADM Hall, RADM Keith, and the Headquarters staff have been extremely flexible and supportive over the past two years. I owe a very special thanks to Linda Bautista for her patience with my Health Affairs article submissions and her

The Winds of Change

expert laying out of all-too-often lengthy articles.

When I assumed this position, I intended to share the opportunity of enlightening NRA members on various health-related issues by using the expertise of many of our own members. Thus, I called upon many others to provide stimulating articles. Over these past two years, I have received numerous e-mails, phone calls, and other correspondence praising the monthly Health Affairs articles. I cannot thank those contributing authors enough for their time and talent and the great articles they provided for our membership.

As the VP for Health Programs, I was truly blessed with outstanding support from an enthusiastic Health Programs Committee. Committee meetings were always robust, educational, informative, and entertaining. Committee members were always eager to share new ideas and to implement new programs. Without a doubt, the Health Fair the Committee provided at the San Diego Fall Conference was a huge success. There is still a lot to do, and I have no

doubts that this Committee and its new VP will continue to be successful.

The winds of change are constantly blowing, changing the course of the Navy and the Naval Reserve in order to provide the superior force and expertise our nation requires to meet the challenges of the future and the threats to our national security. The force of these winds is picking up speed, and there seems to be a sense of urgency to transform the Navy's Active and Reserve Components. This transformation will affect not only the war fighters, but also the supporting corps and staffs. Everyone will feel these winds of change.

Everyone in the NRA should be knowledgeable of these transformational changes and provide comment and positive advice when appropriate. Negative commentary without a workable substitution plan or policy is of little value. I encourage all NRA members, especially the Health Affairs Committee members, to become involved in the future of our great Navy. Thanks again for allowing me the opportunity to serve you, the Association, and the Navy. ⚓