



Lebanon VA  
Medical Center

1700 South Lincoln Avenue  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
(717) 228-6030

# News Release

Contact: Scott W. Harman, 717-228-6030

## For Immediate Release

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### **Congressman Recognizes Award-Winning Labor-Management Relations at the Lebanon VA**

Congressman Tim Holden will visit Lebanon VA Medical Center on September 8, 2010, to recognize Medical Center Management and American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 1966 for their productive relationship.

The medical center's labor-management partnership was established in 1994. Since then, the parties have developed an atmosphere of open communication, mutual respect, and trust. Partnership has contributed to the mission of the facility, providing the best care to our nation's Veterans in many ways, most vividly encouraging employee morale and quality of workplace life. Together, labor and management have enhanced employee praise and involvement by creating the medical center's Hearts of Excellence Awards and involving front-line staff in planning and solution finding. The labor-management partnership keeps the safety and well being of employees in the forefront by addressing employee safety issues at bi-weekly meetings. This has resulted in the utilization of protective devices such as patient lifts, rooftop guardrails and lighting and sidewalk improvements.

In June 2010, Lebanon VA Medical Center received the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Labor-Management Relations Award. This award, acknowledging successful labor-management relationships, was established in 2002 and recognizes those labor-management relationships that have the greatest impact on improving services to Veterans and improving the VA's workplace. Lebanon VA Medical Center is recognized as a facility that exemplifies this collaborative relationship.

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