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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: VA Healthcare-VISN 4 Network Director honored with Presidential Rank Award

PITTSBURGH – July 29, 2010 – Michael E. Moreland, Network Director, VA Healthcare VISN 4, received the 2009 Meritorious Presidential Rank Award during a ceremony today at the National Guard Association in Washington, DC. The award is one of the most prestigious honors for government career senior executives.

There are two categories of rank awards: Distinguished and Meritorious. Award winners are nominated by their agency heads, evaluated by boards of private citizens and approved by the President. The award program recognizes a record of achievement that is acknowledged throughout the recipient's agency or on a national or international level. Recipients also demonstrate strong leadership skills, inspire their employees and earn the respect of those they serve.

Moreland was honored for being an innovative leader who achieves results and consistently demonstrates strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in health care for Veterans. His numerous achievements include launching an independent liver and kidney transplant program at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and leading a national initiative to reduce methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections.

"It is an honor for me to accept the prestigious 2009 Meritorious Presidential Rank Award and be recognized by the President for my career accomplishments and commitment to public service," Moreland said.

Moreland received the same award in November 2002, when he was the director of VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Moreland began his service with the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1980 as a clinical social worker. Since his appointment as network director of VA Healthcare-VISN 4 on Dec. 24, 2006, he has overseen the operations, finances and clinical programs of a health care system that serves an estimated 1.5 million Veterans in Pennsylvania and Delaware, as well as portions of West Virginia, New Jersey, Ohio and New York. The system consists of 10 medical centers and 45 community-based outpatient clinics.

Moreland earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1978 and his master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland in 1980.