



## **Chairman Charlie Dent**

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*Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs  
House Committee on Appropriations*

Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Hearing  
Wed., March 22, 2017  
10:00 AM  
Opening Statement As Prepared

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Since the full fiscal year 2018 budget hasn't arrived, we thought it would be useful to begin our VA hearings with a hearing focused on oversight issues. And the VA Office of Inspector General is really ground zero for oversight of veterans health and benefits.

Mr. Missal, we're glad the previous administration finally got around to making your VA IG appointment. We were treading water far too long with an acting IG. And I understand you actually sought out this appointment, leaving the private sector to take the job. A brave move, considering all the problems VA has had and the volume of work awaiting you. We will be interested in the changes you have implemented to sharpen the focus of the IG's work and the areas you believe are most important to review in VA operations.

We will include your full statement in the record and will appreciate you limiting your oral remarks to five minutes. But before we ask you to begin, I'll turn to our ranking Member, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, for any remarks she may have.

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