



## *Department of Veterans' Affairs*

OREGON VETERANS' BUILDING, 700 SUMMER STREET NE., SALEM, OREGON 97310-1201

December 31, 1984

The Honorable Victor Atiyeh  
Governor of Oregon  
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

Several times since my decision to retire I have tried to express my appreciation to you. Today is my final day on the job, and I decided to try in writing.

Any number of people have asked me if I would have taken the job if I had known what these four years would be like. I can't honestly say how I would have responded then, but I know now that the answer is a resounding yes. There have been moments of frustration, but days on end of enjoyment. I've really liked being Director of Veterans' Affairs during a very critical time for Oregon. Most of all, I've liked working for you.

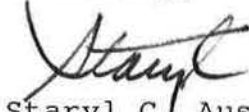
During the 30+ years I've worked for the State, I've been in a position to know every Governor, starting with Paul Patterson. I knew Earl Snell, Doug McKay and Charles Sprague before that. In almost every case, I've watched the power of the Governor's chair consume the man. My perspective on the early ones isn't very good, except that Doug McKay was a very special person during my junior high and high school days and into World War II, and I've always appreciated the chance to know him long before he was Governor.

All of this leads up to something I've said often to others, but never to you. You are one of the very few I've known who is still the same man as Governor as he was before his election to that high office. You haven't been consumed by the power of your office, and that is why I've been so happy to work for you. Oregon is very fortunate to have had you during these times. Many people will never recognize what you have done, but they will all benefit from your wisdom and foresight.

The Honorable Victor Atiyeh  
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Please accept my thanks for the opportunity you gave me,  
for the privilege of being a member of your team, and, most  
of all, for your continuing friendship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Staryl C. Austin, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Staryl C. Austin, Jr.  
Director

SCA/SA