

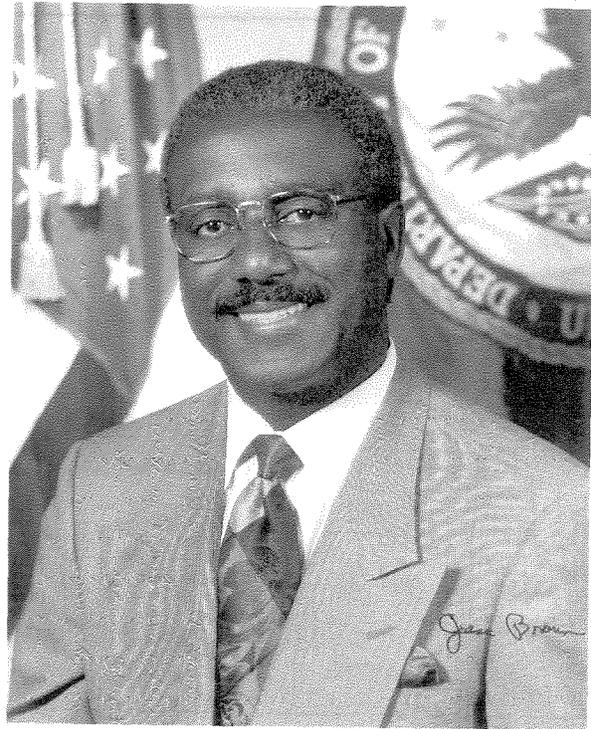


A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Earlier this year, I was faced with a budget dilemma and was forced to take funds from some of our programs and shift them to other areas that were in "critical condition." Research was one of the areas that I reduced, and that was a very difficult decision to make. At the time, some people criticized my decision and deemed it to be the beginning of the end of research in VA. Nothing could be further from the truth.

My decision was not the setting of a precedent, and it in no way indicates a disregard for the research programs. Even as I made the decision, I was thinking of ways to restore those funds in future years. I firmly believe that VA research is just as important to our veterans as the medical care we provide them in our hospitals. In fact, clinical care as we know it would not exist without research. Research is where it all begins, and I am determined to keep our VA research efforts thriving.

The story of VA research successes is long and rewarding. The developments and break-throughs that have come out of that research over the years have helped to benefit *all* Americans, not just veterans. I have no intention of writing the final chapter in the book of VA research. That is why this *Journal* has been reestablished. This move signals our renewed commitment to our research endeavors and to those who devote their careers to conducting research.



Jesse Brown, Secretary of DVA

After being wounded in Vietnam, I began the long and arduous process of hospitalization, therapy, and rehabilitation. I know that the success of my recovery was due to the efforts of the many compassionate men and women who tended to my wounds, guided me through physical therapy, and helped me in every way possible with my total rehabilitation. But I also know that they would not have the best treatment protocols, prosthetics, and therapy regimens if it were not for the efforts of the men and women in VA research.

As Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown, I have an obligation of office to support our VA research programs. As Jesse Brown, disabled veteran, I have a personal reason to not only support those programs but to be thankful for what they meant to my treatment and recovery. That is why I am delighted to see the rebirth of the *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*. It is my hope that this tool for your profession will help you carry VA research to new and even more rewarding levels.

Jesse Brown
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20001