

CONTACT: YOUR NAME & INFO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ADD DATE

Invisible Corps

In Officio Salutis
In Service of Health

YOUR CITY — TODAYS MONTH AND YEAR

“Invisible Corps” documentary to screen (ADD LOCATION).

Who protects and promotes the health of the citizens of the United States?

“When you think of some of the most difficult, challenging tragedies or public health challenges that we've experienced over the last several decades, these are the folks who've been there from the start”

President Barack Obama, Sept. 2015

Narrated by Golden Globe winner and Oscar nominee, Ali MacGraw, “Invisible Corps: In Officio Salutis” explains the history of the U.S. Public Health Service, how important public health is to our nation and how the **Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service** has been the key to saving millions of American lives. Although invisible, they touch the lives of Americans every day: from fluoridated drinking water to eliminating malaria in our country. The USPHS Commissioned Corps cared for veterans before there was a Department of Veterans Affairs and worked on water and air pollution before there was an Earth Day.

The project revolves around a one-hour documentary that will be shown (ADD LOCATION, DATE AND TIME). The program is being made available to all PBS stations nationally along with short elements for use by educators, health care professionals and on social media.

The documentary is underwritten by: USPHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health, Christopher Productions LLC, Boxwork Philanthropy Fund, Capt. Nanette Pepper Callahan, STHealth LLC and Capt. Patricia Mail in association with over 500 PHS Officers. It has been created by Emmy © Award winning producer/director Chris Schueler.

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“I started this program in 2020, after a conversation with Assistant Surgeon General, retired Rear Admiral Pamela Schweitzer,” explains producer/director Chris Schueler. “We had been working together on a film about vaccine misinformation and she asked if I had heard of the USPHS Commissioned Corps. I had no idea of the history, the amazing work and the structure of the Corps that keeps our nation so safe – particularly from infectious disease but also the long-term benefits of their public health efforts.” After over two years of research and interviews, the program began to take shape. It covers, not only the 200 plus year history of the U.S. Public Health Service, but up to and through the COVID-19 pandemic and their efforts, rarely seen or acknowledged, to save American lives now and in the future.

While the uniformed services of the United States include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service is **the only uniformed service in the world dedicated to public health**. In addition to day-to-day responsibilities to support their agencies’, Public Health Service officers are prepared to deploy before, during, and after any public health crisis. Their mission is to “protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the nation.”

More information including the film trailer can be found at: www.InvisibleCorps.com

ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY:

“What we want to do, in the words of Ben Franklin, is to give you an ounce of prevention to save us from having to provide a pound of cure on the back end. That is public health. It's giving you complete streets and access to fresh fruits and vegetables, so you don't get diabetes in the first place.”

Former Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, Aug. 2022

The pandemic has accentuated divides in our country, especially regarding belief in science and healthcare professionals. **It is crucial to un-politicize public health and to understand how it works and what will ultimately create a healthy country.** Over the past several decades, the U.S. PHS Commissioned Corps has been altered in ways that defeat its purpose and affect our nations’ health. The pandemic is a frightening example of the critical need for the USPHS CC.

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The USPHS Commissioned Corps has 11 professional categories; physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, scientists, engineers, environmental health officers, dietitians, therapists, pharmacists and health services officers in 800 locations across the US and around the world. They deploy to multiple public health missions including direct support to the Department of Defense. Public Health Service officers work in over 20 federal agencies from the Indian Health Service to the U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service and Federal Bureau of Prisons. They are the link through our federal governmental health agencies.

“I think that they are the thread that transcends these different agencies, not just FDA, but when you look at CDC, NIH, the other operational components of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Corps officers play a really foundational role”

Former FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb, Sept. 2022

This one-hour PBS documentary covers the history and role of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Interviews for the program include **four former Surgeons General, the current Surgeon General** along with excerpts from past Presidents as well as “boots on the ground” Public Health Service officers and administrators. Viewers will learn how officers throughout history have researched, developed and launched campaigns and cures on a wide variety of public health issues in order to save American lives up to and through the current pandemic.

This project will help Americans understand the USPHS Commissioned Corps’ role in health care, research, regulation and disaster relief. The documentary explains how this Corps works with our federal, state and local governmental agencies, with American Indians and Alaskan Natives and even the national park and federal prison system. Our USPHS Commissioned Corps is positioned to be the connection and leader for the nations’ health for decades to come.

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RELEASE AND DISTRIBUTION

The program will be released in May 2023 and will be made available to every PBS station throughout the country via presenting station KNME. The film will also be placed in a variety of targeted film festivals and screened at universities and health organizations across the country along with Q&A panels. Additionally, the program will be divided into small segments for social media and classroom use. The full interviews will be made available to educational institutions nationwide.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Christopher Productions, LLC most recent project: **Vaccination from the Misinformation Virus** 2022, reached over 50% of the PBS national market. Focusing on educational and social issues, CP has created over 100 television programs in the past 25 years. Clients have included the United Nations, the National Institute of Mental Health, the PBS network, the CBS Network Foundation as well as networks and governments worldwide. Honors include: Over two dozen Rocky Mountain Emmy® Awards, The Grand Award, Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards at the New York Festivals; Two International Iris Awards; The National Education Association Award for the Advancement of Learning through Broadcasting; Two CBS network awards for Excellence in Community Service; Two Service to Children's Television Awards from the National Association of Broadcasters and The Parents' Choice Award.

For more information please visit:

www.ChristopherProductions.org and www.InvisibleCorps.com

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