



**PHS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
FOUNDATION** *for the*
Advancement Of Public Health



Steven K. Galson

Acting Surgeon General (2007-2009)

Steven K. Galson retired as a Rear Admiral in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. He served as the acting Surgeon General of the United States from 2007 to 2009. He served as acting Assistant Secretary for Health from January to June of 2009 and as the Deputy Director and Director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration from 2001 to 2007.

As the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, Galson led efforts to plan for the \$650 million Prevention and Wellness section of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and managed 12 core public health programs.

Galson launched the Healthy Youth for a Healthy Future Initiative, which brought national attention to the complex issue of childhood obesity prevention. RADM Galson established and assumed the role of Chair of the Department of Health and Human Services Childhood Overweight and Obesity Council to coordinate and leverage the impact of departmental programs.

Galson convened the Surgeon General's Workshop on pre-term birth, to reduce the incidence of these births. He published the Surgeon General's Calls to Action on Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism and on how to Promote Healthy Homes, to bring attention to the connection between housing and health.

Upon announcement of the H1N1 influenza virus, he helped educate professionals and families on the status of the spread of the virus and how best to protect themselves through national public service announcements, satellite media interviews and briefing the foreign press in partnership with the State Department. And under his leadership, the Medical Reserve Corps continued its growth, reaching 786 units and 170,000 volunteers. More than 1000 active duty officers were deployed to confront the devastation of the 2008 hurricanes in the Gulf.

Galson released My Family Health Portrait, a web-based tool to enable individuals and families to create, store and share their family health histories. He also highlighted the importance of preventing underage drinking. He created the Surgeon General's Perspectives, a column in the journal Public Health Reports. Galson started a regular column for dieticians in the Journal of the American Dietetics Association.

As the Director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the FDA, RADM Galson oversaw broad national and international programs in pharmaceutical regulation. He initiated a landmark Institute of Medicine assessment of the US drug safety system and launched a broad action plan to address work culture challenges at CDER.

Prior to his arrival at FDA, RADM Galson was the Director of the Office of Science Coordination and Policy, Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, at the EPA. RADM Galson began his Public Health Service career as an epidemiological investigator at the Centers for Disease Control after completing a residency in internal medicine at the Hospitals of the Medical College of Pennsylvania. He was Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Energy.

Galson received his Baccalaureate Degree from Stony Brook University in 1978, an M.D. from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 1983, and an M.P.H. from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1990. He is Board Certified in General Preventive Medicine and Public Health as well as in Occupational Medicine.