U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of JOHN K. STEWART <u>and</u> DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, Seattle, WA

Docket No. 98-399; Submitted on the Record; Issued August 10, 1999

DECISION and ORDER

Before DAVID S. GERSON, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS, BRADLEY T. KNOTT

The issue is whether the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs properly terminated appellant's compensation benefits effective July 23, 1996.

The Board has given careful consideration to the issue involved, the contentions of appellant on appeal and the entire case record. The Board finds that the decision of the hearing representative of the Office dated July 29, 1997 is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the Office hearing representative.

The decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated July 29, 1997 is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. August 10, 1999

> David S. Gerson Member

Willie T.C. Thomas Alternate Member

Bradley T. Knott Alternate Member