U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of THOMAS F. HEWNER (Administrator of the estate of JANE M. PICKERING)

and DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL CENTER, Buffalo, NY

Docket No. 98-1192; Submitted on the Record; Issued November 1, 1999

DECISION and **ORDER**

Before DAVID S. GERSON, BRADLEY T. KNOTT, A. PETER KANJORSKI

The issue is whether the employee's medical condition was causally related to factors of her federal employment.

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 of Workers' Compensation Programs issued and finalized on November 26, 1997 is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the hearing representative.

The decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated November 26, 1997 is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. November 1, 1999

> David S. Gerson Member

Bradley T. Knott Alternate Member

A. Peter Kanjorski Alternate Member