U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of JOHN R. EHMER <u>and</u> DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, BROADVIEW HEIGHTS VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, Brecksville, OH

Docket No. 99-342; Submitted on the Record; Issued August 29, 2000

DECISION and ORDER

Before DAVID S. GERSON, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS, MICHAEL E. GROOM

The issue is whether appellant has met his burden of proof in establishing that his left knee medical condition in 1996 and his May 7, 1996 left knee surgery are causally related to his accepted July 19, 1991 left knee contusion.

The Board has given careful consideration to the issue involved, the contentions of the parties on appeal and the entire case record. The Board finds that the September 30, 1998 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs' hearing representative 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 September 30, 1998, is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. August 29, 2000

> David S. Gerson Member

Willie T.C. Thomas Member

Michael E. Groom Member