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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

This is a special edition of *What's Up, Doc?*, coming to you from...home. Home – my center of operations for a short time, while I am staying off my feet (foot?), letting my broken leg heal. That's right, folks, one leg, three breaks, guaranteed to keep me at home for a bit.

Fortunately, with lots of electronic devices within arm's reach, I can keep in touch with staff everywhere, so you won't feel a big difference.

Just so you will know how this happened, I was visiting my parents in Shreveport over the weekend, and bright and early Saturday morning, I took my golden retriever, Daisy, for her morning walk. Well, Daisy is a good-sized girl, and she "chop-blocked" me pretty good. I went down in a heap, unable to get up, while Daisy wagged her tail in encouragement. Needless to say, there was a visit to the emergency room there in Shreveport, and I got myself back to Baton Rouge for an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon. I am thankful that he is not recommending surgery at this time, but there are definitely a pair of crutches and a wheelchair in my future. And then, when I'm able to put some weight on the leg, a walker will become my latest fashion accessory.

How can you help, you ask? I will be looking for a set of tennis balls for the feet of my walker, so I will be as speedy as the rest of the walker-using population. So, please be thinking about some snazzy tennis balls.

I will be back at the office just as soon as possible, but not to despair, I am on top of things as ever, with the help of dedicated staff, cell phone, laptop and iPad, not to mention Daisy, with her cold nose and wagging tail. Our undersecretary, deputy assistant secretaries, my assistant Nita Franklin-Shanklin and other key staff are keeping me up to date on **everything**, so it will really be business as usual. With the exception that I won't be able to visit our P&P offices and facilities for a while.

It takes a lot more than a broken leg to keep me down, and I will continue to work and to represent you, and the agency, to the best of my ability.

I'm a big believer in the power of prayer, so I would ask you for one more thing – your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

As ever, my thanks to all of you, everywhere, for all that you do every day to meet the mission, no matter where I happen to be.

"Doc"

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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