For Immediate Release

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Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology Honors Dr. John McDonough First-Ever Legacy Award

~ Dr. Katherine E. Meuti Receives Mark Welliver Award for Excellence in Education ~

Tampa, Florida— The Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (FANA) has honored John McDonough, EdD, CRNA, APRN, FRSM, with its first-ever **Legacy Award**, representing a lifetime of service to patients and medical professionals.

Dr. McDonough was presented with FANA's highest honor during their annual meeting in Tampa last month.

Now in its 90th year, FANA represents more than 5,500 members and more than 7,500 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) throughout Florida.

"It is impossible to measure the impact Dr. McDonough has had on our profession and on our state," said Ryan Shores, DNP, CRNA, APRN, in one of his last acts as FANA President. "His passion and dedication throughout his professional life have elevated and transformed the critical role all of our members have in providing medical care in all corners of our state."

The FANA Legacy Award was created this year to recognize a CRNA whose exemplary career has made sustained contributions to nurse anesthesiology in Florida through advocacy, education, mentorship, research, or service. It honors a lasting body of work rather than a single achievement or year of service.

Dr. McDonough's incredible career spans continents and decades in key roles, mirroring the increased demand for the specific, critical skills provided by CRNAs.

- He founded two nurse anesthesiology programs in Florida and co-founded the Uniformed Services University program.
- McDonough became the sixth CRNA to earn a research doctorate, recognizing that faculty with terminal research degrees were essential to moving nurse anesthesia education from hospital-based certificate programs into universities.
- McDonough was the first nurse in Europe to earn a Habilitation Doctorate, an academic qualification beyond the PhD.
- While drafting the CRNA provisions of Iowa's original APRN enabling legislation, McDonough helped keep physician supervision requirements out of the law, laying the

groundwork for Iowa to become the first state to opt out of federal physician supervision requirements.

"I've been blessed to be in the right places at the right time to expand and elevate the specialized training we need to provide critical care to each patient we see," said Dr. McDonough. "I appreciate this honor, but even more, I appreciate the dedication and professionalism I see in each CRNA's eyes."

Also being recognized was Katherine E. Meuti, DNP, CRNA, Associate Professor and Assistant Program Director of the Nurse Anesthesiology Program at the University of North Florida who received the **Mark Welliver Award for Excellence in Education**.

"Dr. Meuti's commitment to student learning and well-being embodies the spirit of this award," said Shores. "The impact she has had on the careers and lives of her students will continue for generations."

Testimonies from students who nominated Dr. Meuti described her encouragement, practical stress-reduction strategies and support throughout the demanding nurse anesthesiology program which blends classroom study with real-world applications. Her work has appeared in journals and been presented at conferences nationally and internationally, extending those themes beyond the classroom.

For more information about CRNAs visit www.crnas4safeanesthesia.com.

About FANA: *Founded in 1936, the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (FANA) represents more than 5,500 members and more than 7,500 CRNAs throughout Florida. FANA advocates for patients and members at the state and federal levels and serves as a resource for CRNAs, the nursing and medical professions, hospitals, health care facilities, and others interested in anesthesia care. For more information, visit www.fana.org.*

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