

2023 Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment Janice J. Izlar, DNAP, CRNA, FAANA Acceptance Speech

Thank you to the AANA Board for selecting me for this prestigious honor and the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists for the nomination. When I heard the news, I felt a mixture of emotions: disbelief, undeserving and immense joy.

Many individuals have influenced my professional life.

As a student – Helen Vos, my North Carolina Baptist program director and former AANA President, is the first that comes to my mind. When I was elected GANA president, I shared the news with Ms. Vos expecting praise. She said, “good” but added, “don’t just carry the title, be a worker.” Those words have inspired me to prioritize the duties in appointed and elected positions.

As a clinician – Sandra Ouellette taught me unmatched classroom and clinical skills. Most of you have heard Sandy lecture; I had the privilege of learning from her in the operating room. She guided me through many anesthetics offering instruction, allowing independence, and imparting a desire to continue to learn and provide excellent anesthesia care to every patient.

As a leadership mentor – Christy Dunkelberger, former GANA Executive Director, taught me how to look at all sides of an issue and encouraged me to use innate leadership skills.

I wish I had time to share a story about the many others who have impacted my life. Please know how much I appreciate your influence.

A life goal my parents demanded was doing my best. Moving our profession forward is a goal I demand of myself. Thankfully, my husband, Charles, and son, Ellis, embrace these goals with me. I appreciate their support and sharing life’s journey.

Thank you.