

2023 Ira P. Gunn Award for Outstanding Professional Advocacy Michael MacKinnon, DNP, FNP-C, CRNA, FAANA Acceptance Speech

I am humbled by this honor but I don't recognize it as "mine". It belongs to Nurse Anesthesiologists who advocate every day in the OR and, when seconds really do count, are right next to our patients, irrespective of practice model. Every beat, every breath every moment.

Larry Hornsby, Juan Quintana, Joe Rodriguez, Scott Rigdon, and Jan Mannino are the compass points that have guided me here today. I cannot thank them enough. Anytime I respond to lies from our adversaries the words of the "Silver Fox" Larry Hornsby echo in my ear... Boy, that dog just don't hunt!

To my wife Courtney, your unwavering support has been my beacon in challenging times. Lawd knows, it is not always easy to live with me! You should get an award for that!

CRNAs are made up of people who look different, love different, politic and believe different. Yet, when it comes to our professional dedication, we must stand as one. Team CRNA. I look forward to serving you all as an AANA Board member!

Unfortunately, it is rarely enough to be right. We need ACTION. Donate to the AANA and state PACs, the foundation and get involved. Pay it forward! That is how we win now and into the future!