CRNA Ruth Satterfield honored with first AANA Annual Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment

Ruth P. Satterfield, CRNA, AANA senior education consultant, became the first recipient of the AANA Annual Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment. Mrs. Satterfield was honored for her contributions to the education of nurse anesthetists and the AANA.

This award was established "to recognize individuals whose foremost dedication to excellence has furthered the art and science of nurse anesthesia." The recipient of the award does not necessarily have to be a CRNA, but must have worked toward furthering the profession.

Mrs. Satterfield received her anesthesia education at Western Reserve University Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio in 1941 and has been a member of AANA since that time. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York and a Masters' degree in Nursing Education from Columbia University in New York City.

The majority of her career was spent in the Army Nurse Corps. She served as Education Director of all army schools of nurse anesthesia and concluded her army career as Consultant to the Army Surgeon General. Mrs. Satterfield received the Amita Award in 1968. This award is presented annually to women of Italian descent who have distinguished themselves in their particular field. She was appointed Education Consultant to the AANA in 1968 and still serves as Senior Consultant.

Mrs. Satterfield was presented with a Tiffany gold charm bearing the AANA logo and an inscribed plaque. A permanent plaque—complete with the name of each recipient—will be on display in the Executive Office.

Participating in the presentation of Mrs. Satterfield's award were: Mildred C. Rumpf, AANA president, 1974-75; Bernice O. Baum, AANA executive director; John F. Garde, chairman, AANA Education Committee; and Col. Alex Ferry, representing the army nurse corps.

Noted researcher Dr. David Bruce details possible hazards of exposure to trace anesthetics

David L. Bruce, MD, a professor at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, Illinois, highlighted some of the recent findings indicating possible hazards—particularly to pregnant females—as a result of exposure to trace anesthetics.

Much of his talk focused on material that had already been published in Anesthesiology resulting from a study conducted by the American Society of Anesthesiologists. (This study was abstracted in the December, 1974, issue of the AANA Journal.)

Dr. Bruce emphasized that though evidence pointed to trace anesthetics as being the culprits in creating a harmful environment in the operating room, no specific anesthetic could be named, as such, without further research.

He did emphasize the positive results that were obtained by installing relatively inexpensive equipment in the operating room to remove trace anesthetic gases. Such equipment, he believes, will soon be required by law throughout the country.

Editor's note: The AANA has just received notice from HEW of a publication that will be available on October 1, entitled, "Development and Evaluation of Methods for the Elimination of Waste Anesthetic Gases and Vapors in Hospitals." This report outlines effective control procedures for eliminating waste anesthetic gases in operating rooms.

To obtain the report, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The cost is $2.15 each and the GPO stock number is 017-033-00071.