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Governor Martin O'Malley Declares January 23-29, 2011 As Nurse Anesthetist Week in Maryland

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists celebrate providing professional quality, personal care to patients

Baltimore, MD—Providing patients with the professional quality they expect and the personal care they deserve, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), in Baltimore and across the country are celebrating the 12th annual National Nurse Anesthetists Week, January 23-29, 2011.

Established by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), National Nurse Anesthetists Week was created to encourage CRNAs to take the opportunity to educate the public about anesthesia safety, questions to ask prior to undergoing surgery, and the benefits of receiving anesthesia care from nurse anesthetists.

“One of the many rewards of being a nurse anesthetist is providing patients with the comfort of knowing that I will be by their side monitoring their vital signs and adjusting their anesthetics during the entire time they are asleep, a fact many patients are unaware of,” said Linda Goetz, MHS, CRNA, President, Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists. “National Nurse Anesthetists Week serves as an opportunity to promote exactly what CRNAs do and who we are.”

Nurse anesthetists are advanced practice nurses who administer approximately 32 million anesthetics in the United States each year. Practicing in every setting where anesthesia is available, CRNAs are the sole anesthesia providers in more than two-thirds of all rural hospitals, and have been the main provider of anesthesia care to U.S. service men and women on the front lines since World War I.

“I take pride in belonging to a profession that has been at the forefront of anesthesia patient safety for more nearly 150 years. CRNAs play a key role in developing trends related to monitoring technology, anesthetic drugs, and provider education. In fact, anesthesia today is nearly 50 times safer than it was just 20 years ago,” said Goetz.

The Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MANA) was founded in 1946, with the first state meeting held on December 2, 1946. MANA is the professional organization that represents CRNAs practicing in the state of Maryland. The association advocates for patients and members while promoting safe, affordable care for all Marylanders. <http://www.crnasofmd.org>