

## Nominated by ASA Leadership, Kathleen Casey, M.D., F.A.C.S. Receives AMA Nathan Davis Humanitarian Award

On Tuesday, February 8, 2011, physician Kathleen Casey, M.D., F.A.C.S. was presented the 2011 Dr. Nathan Davis International Award in Medicine. Dr. Casey was nominated for the award by ASA Immediate Past President Alexander A. Hannenberg, M.D. The presentation took place during the American Medical Association Foundation's Excellence in Medicine Awards Ceremony, in conjunction with the AMA National Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes physicians who have dramatically improved medical practice, education or research for an international patient population.

After a distinguished career in the U.S. Navy, Dr. Casey's humanitarian work led to the creation of the American College of Surgeons' Operation Giving Back [healthcommentary.org](http://healthcommentary.org), where she has served as director since 2004. Operation Giving Back places surgeons of virtually every specialty in underserved areas throughout the world, and has supported more than 100 nonprofit organizations that serve needy surgical patients. Providing an important network for volunteers, Operation Giving Back has helped to provide physicians who perform more than 175,000 surgical procedures annually.

Dr. Casey has led mobilizations of humanitarian outreach and surgical response following the 2004 Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and most recently during the 2010 Haitian earthquake. Dr. Casey and Operation Giving Back were instrumental in supporting ASA's efforts to coordinate the volunteer anesthesiologists responding to the Haitian earthquake.

"Because of Dr. Casey and Operation Giving Back, tens of thousands of patients the world over



*Dr. Casey with ASA Immediate Past President Dr. Hannenberg, who nominated her for the award.*

have received care that they otherwise would not have received," said Dr. Hannenberg. "Her tireless efforts and enormous successes should be an inspiration for any physician looking to give back to society after having received so much themselves. She is the embodiment of the stated attributes of a Nathan Davis Award winner."

ASA plans to work with Operation Giving Back on a web portal that allows anesthesiologists to identify specific volunteer opportunities. Also planned is a section through which volunteers can file reports on their experiences. Stay tuned to the ASA website and *NEWSLETTER* for further information on this partnership between ASA and Operation Giving Back.