

# Foundation Advocate of the Year

*Russell Lynn, CRNA, MSN, APN*



**R**ussell Lynn, CRNA, MSN, would have been both humbled and honored to receive the 2015 AANA Foundation Advocate of the Year Award. Although he is no longer physically present, he is smiling down from Heaven on this wonderful occasion.

His family, friends, and colleagues are very proud of Russell's accomplishments as a state advocate, a state leader, educator, AANA leader, and a Friend for Life (FFL), and for all that he has done for the profession that he loved so much.

His contributions of time, energy, and his ultimate gift as an FFL not only support the future of nurse anesthesia but also support the most important mission of the FFL program: funding many scholarships, fellowships, grants, and critical research studies.

In his brief 13 years as a CRNA, Russ emerged as a role model and a state leader, an AANA leader, and an educator. He truly embraced the Foundation's mission of advancing the science of nurse anesthesia through education and research. As the New Jersey Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NJANA) president and also as NJANA treasurer, Russ adamantly encouraged support of the Foundation and worked tirelessly in fundraising events so that the

NJANA Board of Directors would be able to establish a yearly line item donation to the Foundation. In addition to this, Russ championed the establishment of Foundation State Advocate position within the NJANA. He was the first to volunteer to serve as state advocate and continued to serve until his untimely death in December 2014.

Russ will also be remembered for his mentorship of student registered nurse anesthetists. He was a strong, reliable supporter of students presenting their research at NJANA meetings, their poster presentations at the AANA Annual Congress, and submission of their research abstracts to the *International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia*. Because of his tireless encouragement and support of students, the NJANA has now designated student presentations at NJANA meetings as the "Russell Lynn Memorial Student Lecture Series."

Russ Lynn's last walk down the aisle as a FFL member was just a brief 12 months ago in September 2014, during the Opening Ceremonies. He took his precious time left to spend with his beloved students and his cherished friends and colleagues. Russ Lynn really exemplifies the true meaning of what the Foundation calls a "Friend For Life."