In celebration of its 15th anniversary, the Doctor of Nursing Practice Nurse Anesthesia specialty presents

Top 15 Things You Might Not Know About Nurse Anesthesia

1. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are credentialed anesthesia providers who safely administer approximately 45 million anesthetics annually to patients in the United States.

2. Nurses have been providing anesthesia care to patients in the United States for more than 150 years, but the CRNA credential was established in 1956.

3. In 1909, the first nurse anesthesia program was established at Saint Vincent’s Hospital in Portland, Oregon.

4. Each graduate of a nurse anesthesia educational program must pass the national certification examination before they can be certified as a CRNA.

5. Nearly 54,000 CRNAs are credentialed in the United States, using every aspect of their education, training, knowledge, and skills to keep patients safe during surgery.

6. CRNAs are qualified to administer every type of anesthesia to any patient in any health care setting.

7. CRNAs deliver comprehensive quality care using all accepted anesthesia techniques, including general, regional, sedation, local, and pain management.

8. CRNAs are the main providers of anesthesia to the U.S. Armed Forces, especially on the battlefield.

9. CRNAs are the primary providers of anesthesia care in rural America, enabling health care facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, pain management, and trauma stabilization services.

10. Anesthesia care is nearly 50 times safer than it was in the early 1980s.

11. Numerous outcome studies have demonstrated that there is no difference in the quality of care provided by CRNAs and their physician counterparts.

12. Legislation passed by Congress in 1986 made nurse anesthetists the first nurses to be accorded direct reimbursement rights under the Medicare program.

13. CRNAs are prepared at the doctoral level in all nurse anesthesia programs across the United States.

14. According to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, about 11% of CRNAs nationally identify as minorities. At UMSON, 50-60% of each Nurse Anesthesia specialty cohort is composed of students from diverse backgrounds.

15. U.S. News & World Report has ranked nurse anesthetist among the top 10 “best jobs” for three years running.

EVERY BREATH, EVERY HEARTBEAT, and EVERY SECOND, CRNAs are there, ensuring patients remain safe during surgery.