

Dr. Anita Hickey Memorial



Anita Hickey MD was commissioned as a U. S. Naval Medical Corps officer in 1987 and continued to proudly serve her country for 28 years. Anita served multiple deployments supporting the Global War on Terrorism onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) and USS George Washington (CVN-73). She performed multiple humanitarian missions, including deployments onboard the USNS Mercy, and supporting NATO operations in Kosovo, Yugoslavia. She retired from active duty in 2015 after completing her tour in Okinawa, Japan. After retiring from the Navy, Anita continued to care for the active duty and

general military population she loved so much as a Pain Management / Anesthesia physician at the Naval Medical Center San Diego. Anita served in many leadership positions, authored numerous peer reviewed publications and book chapters on topics including pain management, post-traumatic stress disorder, and acupuncture. She authored a book titled Pain Is Not What It Seems: The Guide to Understanding and Healing from Chronic Pain and Suffering. She spoke at numerous medical conferences on Integrative Medicine and Pain Management. She was selected as the Integrative Medicine and Pain Medicine United States Navy representative for the Army Surgeon General's task force on pain management, whose report recommending a holistic, multidisciplinary, and multimodal pain management strategy was published in 2010. She was awarded multiple honors and awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two stars, Navy Meritorious Unit Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal with star, Overseas Medal with star, Sea Service Medal, NATO Medal, South East Asia Medal, and Navy Expeditionary Medal.

Anita is loved and missed by many. She touched the lives of so many with her faith, her courage, her unique mixture of sophistication and innocence, intelligence and absolute openness to learning, propriety and practicality, elegance and simplicity. She sincerely loved and reached out to others, truly seeing them as her brothers and sisters. She was selfless, loving, hardworking, dependable, with faultless integrity. Please help us to always remember and honor her, each in our own way every day, to reach out with forgiveness and compassion to others as she did in her life, to seek out the beautiful, the uplifting, the inspiring in life, so that when our own lives wind to an end, and we each return to the universe, that we will each hear "Well done, you have made the world a better place."