



AMA honors Ginaitt

Former state Representative Peter T. Ginaitt, RN, EMT, this year became the second Rhode Islander ever to receive the AMA's Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service.

Mr. Ginaitt, who represented District 22 (Warwick) at the State House for 15 years as a Democrat and retired from politics in 2007, was nominated for the honor by Dr. Michael Migliori on behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society in recognition of Ginaitt's years of exceptionally knowledgeable leadership at the State House and his distinguished record of shaping enlightened health care policy.

The last RIMS nominee to receive the Nathan Davis Award was U.S. Senator John H. Chafee in 1994. Named for the founder of the AMA, Nathan Davis Awards are presented each year in several categories, including U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, and State Legislator, and Statewide Elected Official. Not every category is awarded every year.

U.S. Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, RI Representative Jim Langevin, RIMS President-Elect Diane Siedlecki, MD, and Public Laws Chair Michael Migliori, MD, were on hand to congratulate Representative Ginaitt at the awards banquet held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC, in April. ❖

[Top] RI State Representative Peter Ginaitt, RN, EMT addresses the AMA Nathan Davis Awards banquet in Washington, DC.

RI State Representative Peter Ginaitt, RN, EMT holding the Nathan Davis Award presented to him by the AMA for his outstanding service as a state legislator. At left is broadcast journalist Forrest Sawyer, MC of the Nathan Davis Awards Banquet. At right is Edward L. Langston, MD, Chairman of the AMA Board of Trustees

Warde elected to AMA Litigation Center

RIMS' Executive Director Newell Warde was elected to the Executive Committee of the AMA Litigation Center in June.

The Center provides legal assistance and expertise to physicians all over the country. Since its inception in 1995, the AMA Litigation Center has participated in more than 160 cases, many of which have set important legal precedents and had broad implications for patients and doctors.

For example, when New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo announced his dramatic initiatives against UnitedHealthcare earlier this year, he was actually following a trail that was blazed eight years ago by the AMA Litigation Center. The Center

has also provided generous support to the Rhode Island Medical Society in its current multi-step efforts to challenge the provider taxes that the state of Rhode Island imposed a year ago.

The Center is a joint undertaking of state medical societies and the AMA and was founded as a mechanism to level the playing field for physicians, who are typically at a substantial disadvantage in litigation that pits them against large entities like insurance companies and hospitals. All fifty states and the District of Columbia participate in supporting the Center.

The Litigation Center's docket of cases tends to include issues of physician payment, medical staff

privileges, medical liability, peer review, and scope-of-practice, among many other topics. They run the gamut from state administrative proceedings to the U.S. Supreme Court. At any given time, the Center is usually involved in about 25 active cases.

The ten-member Executive Committee of the Litigation Center is composed of four state executive directors, four state general counsels, a member of the AMA Board of Trustees and an attorney employed by the AMA who serves as Director of the Center. The AMA's General Counsel also sits with and advises the Center. ❖