



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



TIMOTHY J. SHAPIRO '06, DNAP

Nurse Anesthetist

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

As a nurse anesthetist for VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Timothy J. Shapiro '06 works in the anesthesia care team model for the Department of Veteran Affairs. Dr. Shapiro provides anesthesia service to the veteran population undergoing a wide array of procedures.

Dr. Shapiro's varied nursing background includes experience in intensive care and the emergency department. Prior to his nursing career, he also worked as a paramedic.

"My career has always been ambitious and kinetic, rooted in a deep and profound knowledge base and a belief that health care is dynamic," he explained. "I have always been passionate about biology and pathophysiology, and I understand that yesterday's knowledge will neither suffice nor substitute the care of the future. Knowledge lays the foundation so one may understand science, but it is imperative to embrace change and synthesis evidence-based medicine."

Dr. Shapiro's military service includes roles as a medical-surgical nurse/nurse anesthetist for the Army Professional Management Command; an infantryman for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard; and a medical specialist/license practical nurse for the United States Army Reserve and United States Army. He deployed six times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"If there was one particular moment that I would have to quantify as my greatest, it certainly would have to be during the surge in the Iraq War," he said. "We were nine strong, seeing egregiously wounded soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen in a hostile region that afforded no peace or rest. I worked among the greatest anesthesia professionals, laboring endlessly and being witness to the extraordinary. What I saw and was a part of was miraculous, and a period of great introspection."

Mr. Shapiro received his Bachelor of Science in nursing from Clarion University and a Master of Science in health science from La Roche College. Later he obtained his master's in pharmacy, and a graduate certificate in clinical toxicology from the University of Florida, a graduate certificate in homeland defense through Southern New Hampshire University, and a doctorate in nurse anesthesia practice from Texas Wesleyan University.

"Without the education I received at La Roche, I would have never achieved my desired end-state," he said. "La Roche was the genesis of my career."

