

# ASA to Sponsor 5K Run/Walk in San Diego: **ASA Run for the Warriors® – San Diego**

John F. Capacchione, M.D.

Brian P. McGlinch, M.D.

*Committee on Uniformed Services and Veteran's Affairs*

**Since September 11, 2001, military anesthesiologists have spent countless hours caring for our nation's combat wounded both at home and abroad.** Nearly every member of the Uniformed Services Society of Anesthesiologists (USSA) has directly cared for wounded military personnel. In 2008, at the USSA Symposium on Traumatic Brain Injury, Marine Lt. Col. Tim Maxwell, who survived a severe traumatic brain injury during his combat tour in Iraq 2004, provided the keynote address relating his experience and ongoing recovery. His presentation was remarkable, memorable and relevant to the audience's experience of caring for combat casualties. Thus began a unique brotherhood-in-arms, doctor-patient relationship between the USSA and combat-wounded advocacy groups.

At the 2009 USSA Annual Meeting, the concept of a USSA-sponsored, fund-raising 5K run/walk was proposed, with the event taking place during the 2010 ASA Annual Meeting. San Diego, being one of the nation's premier military communities, is an ideal setting for this activity with its large military presence, but also because of the large number of combat wounded living in the community. As the USSA had little experience in arranging fund-raising runs, contact was made with Hope for the Warriors®, a national non-profit organization that provides support to the wounded, their families and families of the fallen. Given that Hope for the Warriors® already had experience in staging charity run/walk events, the USSA's proposal was well received.

As the idea grew, the USSA proposed at the March 2010 ASA Board of Director's meeting to make ASA the primary sponsor for the event. The ASA Board enthusiastically endorsed the request and dedicated money for this one-time

event. This act by the ASA is epic in its message of support for a cause that recognizes the efforts of our wounded, their families and our colleagues entrusted with the care of combat wounded here and abroad. This action by ASA is not a business decision, but rather an action that embodies the best intentions of a professional society.

It is the USSA's hope that in uniting the entire ASA and San Diego communities, military and civilian alike, this event will embrace our nation's wounded heroes and their families in the shared belief that there is hope beyond recovery. We invite young and old, military and civilian, runners and walkers to help welcome home and embrace our wounded warriors. All proceeds will benefit our nation's wounded heroes and their families through the many Hope for the Warriors® Programs. Monies raised will assist with both immediate and future needs. As seen on the Hope For The Warriors® website, "RUN for something Greater ... RUN because YOU can!"

The ASA Run For The Warriors® – San Diego at ANETHESIOLOGY 2010 in San Diego, will be held on Sunday, October 17, beginning with a pre-run ceremony at 7 a.m. and a 7:30 a.m. start. The Run/Walk will take place along the San Diego Bay and Embarcadero, right outside the San Diego Convention Center and the meeting's main hotels.

For more information and to sign up for the ASA/Hope For the Warriors® 5K Run/Walk, go to [www.hopeforthewarriors.org](http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org).



*John F. Capacchione, M.D. is Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland, staff anesthesiologist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. and National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda.*



*Brian P. McGlinch, M.D. is Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, and Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Corps, U.S. Army Reserves, 452nd Combat Support Hospital, Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He is ASA Director for Minnesota.*