



Healthcare Association  
of New York State

EMBARGOED UNTIL 8 P.M.  
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## **NATIONAL GUARD MEDICAL HEROES RECEIVE STATE'S HIGHEST HEALTH CARE SERVICE AWARD**

Glen's Falls-Based 466<sup>th</sup> New York Army National Guard's Area Medical Support Company  
and Ithaca Physician Colonel Joan Sullivan Receive the  
Healthcare Association of New York State's Distinguished Service Award

At Times Under Fire, "Citizen Soldiers" Treated Thousands of Wounded,  
Injured, and Ill Comrades During Duty in Iraq

BOLTON LANDING, N.Y. — Hundreds of health care leaders from every corner of the state joined together today to present their highest award to the New York Army National Guard's Glens Falls-based 466<sup>th</sup> Area Medical Support Company and to National Guard Physician Colonel Joan Sullivan, of Ithaca, for administering life-saving care to thousands of wounded, injured, and ill soldiers in Iraq.

The awards were presented today at the Healthcare Association of New York State's (HANYS) Annual Membership Conference in Bolton Landing. The 466<sup>th</sup> Company Commander Lt. Colonel Jamie Green joined with dozens of unit members to receive the award. Dr. Sullivan accepted the award via video message from her current deployment in Afghanistan—her third tour of duty overseas. She was also represented at the ceremony by her sister, Barbara Sullivan-Sicke.

"There is no greater representation of the courage, resolve, and compassion of our armed forces and our nation than the men and women who provide battlefield care to our soldiers and sailors," HANYS' President Daniel Sisto said. "It is a unique privilege to honor the 466<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Sullivan, and their many colleagues. We offer this award as a humble means of saying 'thank you' to them and to all our service personnel and their families for their tremendous sacrifice."

Michael J. Dowling, Chairman of HANYS' Board of Directors and President and Chief Executive Officer of North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System said, "This award recognizes distinguished service, and we cannot imagine service more distinguished than putting your own life on the line to provide lifesaving medical care to a fallen comrade. We are truly inspired by their commitment to service, their commitment to their fellow soldiers, and their commitment to our nation. There are no better friends to a wounded soldier than the 466<sup>th</sup> and Colonel Sullivan, and we believe their sacrifice should not go unnoticed."

### The New York Army National Guard's 466<sup>th</sup> Area Medical Support Company

From October 2006 until September 2007, the 72 soldiers of the Glens Falls-based medical company provided immediate medical care in a region stretching from Baghdad to the Kuwait border, an area as big as the state of Pennsylvania. The 466<sup>th</sup>'s primary mission was to provide medical treatment and coverage for the convoys that move along the main highway between Baghdad to Kuwait.

Operating from four dispersed locations, and often coming under fire while treating casualties, the men and women of the 466<sup>th</sup> would treat and stabilize patients before moving them on for more advanced care elsewhere. Along with treating hundreds of battlefield injuries and wounds, the 466<sup>th</sup> handled 29,000 individual patient visits and thousands of x-rays, laboratory tests, and dental visits.

The unit's medical facilities also provided a refuge for soldiers dealing with combat stress, while the unit provided ambulance and evacuation services at the Forward Operating Bases unit. In addition, the 466<sup>th</sup> worked with a forward surgical team to provide care normally handled by a Combat Surgical Hospital at Logistics Support Area Adder in Tallil, Iraq. The non-medical members of the 466<sup>th</sup> contributed directly to the unit's mission accomplishment by keeping vehicles running, supplies coming in, and patient status tracked.

### Colonel Joan Sullivan

As division surgeon of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Colonel Sullivan was the medical officer responsible for the health and medical care of 23,000 American soldiers spread out across an area the size of West Virginia from February to November 2005. Operating out of Tikrit, Iraq, Colonel Sullivan also oversaw the training of medical personnel throughout Task Force Liberty, a force of Active, Reserve, and National Guard soldiers, as well as the health and welfare of Iraqis detained during combat operations.

For 18 months, the veteran of 20 years in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard Medical Corps was away from her practice, dealing with the stresses of wartime medicine.

Currently, Colonel Sullivan is back in combat once again, as the brigade surgeon for the New York National Guard's 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team. Along with 1,700 members of the New York Army National Guard, she is the surgeon for another 7,000 soldiers in 240 locations coming from 49 states and 13 other nations. This international force, dubbed Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, is responsible for training the Afghan National Army and police so that they can stand up to the Taliban.

Colonel Sullivan's service also included time in New York City after the September 11 attacks monitoring the health of New York Army National Guard Soldiers on duty around Ground Zero.

Her military awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal for service at Ground Zero, the New York State Aid to Civil Authorities Medal, and the New York State Humanitarian Service Medal.

*The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) is the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, representing more than 550 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.*