

Robert G. Ojemann, MD
AANS President
1986-1987



The 1986-1987 period was a memorable and exciting year which would not have been possible without the hard work of a great many people. A superb Executive Committee and Board of Directors as well as the staff at the AANS national headquarters in Park Ridge, IL and the Washington, DC office provided the support structure for a productive year. The hard work and leadership from the Executive Director, Mr. Carl Hauber, was invaluable. Many of the accomplishments and on-going committee activities would not have been possible without the hundreds of volunteer hours from all segments of the neurosurgical community.

A highlight of the year was the announcement that Harvey Cushing would be honored by appearing on a United States postage stamp in the Great American series. This had become known to Mrs. Ronald Reagan whose stepfather, Dr. Loyal Davis, had trained with Dr. Cushing. On April 8, 1987, on a beautiful afternoon, a ceremony was held in the Rose Garden of the White House with President Ronald Reagan unveiling the design for the stamp with Mrs. Reagan, Mrs. John Hay Whitney (Harvey Cushing's daughter), and Postmaster General Robert Tisch in attendance. This writer and his wife then had the pleasure of spending about 30 minutes in the Oval Office having an informal conversation with President and Mrs. Reagan, Mrs. Whitney, and neurosurgeon Dr. Richard Davis (Mrs. Reagan's brother) and his wife. This was followed by a reception in the State Dining Room where the President personally greeted every one of the attending neurosurgeons and their guests.



During the year we had a great working relationship with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), cooperating on numerous joint activities and committees. We also had a productive dialogue with the Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies. The major issues considered and responded to with input from the appropriate joint committees concerned professional liability, catastrophic

illness insurance, and reimbursement. There was input on issues related to Veterans Administration Hospital reform, the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Improvement act of 1987, biomedical research, and graduate medical education.

At the beginning of the year there was a considerable difference of opinion between the *Journal of Neurosurgery* and the AANS Executive Committee as to how the finances of the *Journal* should be managed. After a long discussion during a face-to-face meeting this issue was resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Other timely issues were considered. Concern was raised about the lack of knowledge the general public had about what the specialty of neurosurgery encompassed. In conjunction with the CNS, a Public Relations Director and Advisory Committee was formed to develop brochures for the public and articles for the lay press. Time was spent on organization of the annual meeting, being sure the finances of the AANS were strong and membership services were being addressed. Oversight of the joint committees and sections was accomplished. Support and direction were given to the Research Foundation (now NREF), the National Head and Spinal Cord Injury Prevention program (now Think First), and the archive activities. Further response was developed to the EC-IC bypass study. Approvals were given for a Pain Section, the recommendation from the Joint Education Committee that the CME requirement be raised from 60 to 90 hours over three years and that awards be given for posters at the annual meeting [Historical Note: CME requirements were re-established at 60 hours during the 1995 reporting cycle].

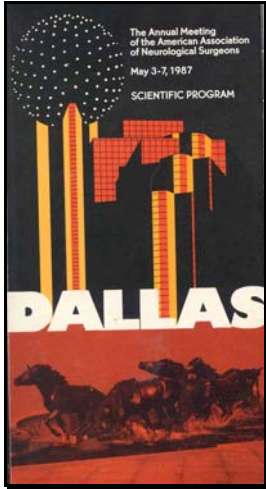
In January, 1987 the AANS Board approved my recommendation that a Humanitarian Award be established to recognize AANS members for activities outside their practice of neurosurgery. This award distinguishes those members who have given time and/or talents selflessly to a charitable or public activity and whose actions have brought honor to the specialty.

The year ended with a great meeting in Dallas, the largest attended to that date. My presidential address was "The Tradition of Harvey Cushing Commemorated by a Stamp in the Great American Series". Dr. William F. Meachum received the Cushing Medal, Dr. Courtland H. Davis, Jr. received the first Humanitarian Award, and Mr. Ross Perot gave the Cushing Oration. His speech entitled "Meeting International Competition" spoke of the state of business, commerce and education in the United States and some of the steps that must be taken to keep this country viable.

This was, indeed, an extraordinary year!

August 2006

Vital Statistics



1986-87

Officers:

Robert G. Ojemann, President
Henry D. Garretson, President Elect
George T. Tindall, Vice President
David L. Kelly, Jr., Secretary
James T. Robertson, Treasurer

Annual Meeting Location: Dallas, TX

Presidential Address: The tradition of Harvey Cushing commemorated by a stamp in the Great American stamp series. JNeurosurg 67:631-642, 1987.

Cushing Orator: H. Ross Perot, businessman. Meeting International Competition. [Not Published]

Awards: Cushing Medal - William F. Meacham
Humanitarian - Courtland H. Davis, Jr.

Honorary Members: Alexander N. Konovalov, Willem Luyendijk, Emil Pasztor, and Bernard Pertuiset

Membership: 2975