

**American Osteopathic Foundation/Advocates for the AOA's
Donna Jones Moritsugu Memorial Award**

Award Nomination

Since 1993, the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association (AAOA) and the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF) have partnered to extend this prestigious award to 4th Year OMS spouses from across the country who have been nominated by their Osteopathic Colleges/Schools of Osteopathic Medicine (COMs/SOMs) across the country. The annual Donna Jones Moritsugu Memorial Award honors the memory of the beloved late wife of Kenneth P. Moritsugu, MD. Dr. Moritsugu, former Deputy Surgeon General of the United States, retired military physician, nationally recognized public health expert, and former AOF Board member. While serving as Rear Admiral in the US Public Health Service, throughout medical school, and while in practice, Dr. Moritsugu appreciated the many ways in which his wife served as "the wind beneath his wings."

Purpose

This award honors life partners of graduating Osteopathic medical students who exemplify immeasurable support and have made significant personal sacrifices that have contributed to their partner's success.

Award

One (1) legally recognized spouse of a graduating OMS-IV may be honored by each COM/SOM, branch campus, and location annually.

Eligibility

- Each COM/SOM, branch campus, and location from across the country may nominate one (1) legally recognized spouse of a graduating OMS-IV who exemplifies the role of a loving, committed, supportive, partner to their student physician.
- Newlyweds (marriages under 12 months) are not eligible.
- The award shall not be given posthumously.
- Students may not nominate their spouse; they may, however, write to their COM/SOM administration for consideration.

Nomination Requirements

- Completed online nomination from the COM/SOM administration.
- One (1) nomination letter (written or approved by the Dean) providing specific examples of the support provided by the nominee.
- One (1) optional letter submitted by the OMS student on behalf of their spouse.
- Nominations may be submitted between March 1, 2024 and May 16, 2024.

General Information

- Award Certificates will be sent (electronically) to COM/SOM for use on stage at graduation (if you so choose).
NOTE: *We appreciate when COMs/SOMs acknowledge the annual partnership with the AOF and the AAOA during the award presentation.*
- Awards from the AOF and AAOA will be mailed directly to the OMS-IV; recipient home address (as of June 2024) and personal cell number must be included on the nomination form.
- All spouse awardees will receive a complimentary one (1) year membership to the AAOA.
- All spouse awardees and resident physicians will be invited to a virtual "cohort celebration" to meet Dr. Mortisugu and each other.
- All spouse awardees will be honored on AOF's website, annual report, as well as other publications and communications.