

FLORIDA DERMATOLOGIST RECOGNIZED FOR TREATMENT OF VIETNAM VETERAN

Dr. Cyndi Yag-Howard receives national honor from the American Academy of Dermatology

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Rosemont, Ill.—The American Academy of Dermatology has honored board-certified dermatologist Cyndi Yag-Howard, MD, FAAD, as a *Patient Care Hero* for her work treating veterans with serious skin conditions.

When Jack Cooper of Naples, Fla., served as a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War, skin care was not a high priority. In the decades since he retired from the U.S. Army, Cooper developed several skin cancers and other skin conditions related to exposure to Agent Orange, an herbicide used as a chemical weapon. He experienced incredibly painful symptoms, like blisters on his arms and rashes across his lower body, and began wearing long sleeves to cover the sores.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) referred Cooper to Dr. Yag-Howard to treat and manage his skin conditions, including removing a melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. She also prescribed medications that addressed and corrected the painful symptoms he was experiencing.

“It’s more than just being comfortable in my skin; Dr. Yag-Howard has also empowered me to do things I haven’t done in decades, like playing golf,” said Cooper. “She taught me how to avoid dangerous sun exposure and gave me confidence to go out and do the things I enjoy without compromising my health.”

With proper treatment and education, Cooper’s skin conditions are now well-managed, and he is living symptom-free.

“It’s incredibly rewarding to treat our veterans and give back to those who have given so much for our country,” said Dr. Yag-Howard. “Many veterans have skin diseases as a result of their service, so it’s important for them to have access to dermatologists’ expertise. I’m fortunate to have met many outstanding people through my volunteer work with the VA.”

The AAD created the *Patient Care Heroes* program to recognize physicians who transform patients’ lives by utilizing their expertise and collaborating with other physicians to treat serious skin disease.

“Veterans often face a lifetime of difficult conditions once their service ends” said board-certified dermatologist George J. Hruza, MD, MBA, FAAD, president of the AAD. “Dr. Yag-Howard’s volunteer work is one important way dermatologists help veterans get the care they need.”

To learn more about the work of Dr. Yag-Howard, visit <https://www.aad.org/skinserious/stories-jack-cooper>.

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About SkinSerious

SkinSerious is a campaign by the American Academy of Dermatology that highlights dermatologists' role as partners in the health care system, providing expert care for serious conditions. To learn more, visit SkinSerious.org.

About the AAD

Headquartered in Rosemont, Ill., the American Academy of Dermatology, founded in 1938, is the largest, most influential, and most representative of all dermatologic associations. With a membership of more than 20,000 physicians worldwide, the AAD is committed to: advancing the diagnosis and medical, surgical and cosmetic treatment of the skin, hair and nails; advocating high standards in clinical practice, education, and research in dermatology; and supporting and enhancing patient care for a lifetime of healthier skin, hair and nails. For more information, contact the AAD at 1-888-462-DERM (3376) or aad.org. Follow the AAD on [Facebook](#) (American Academy of Dermatology), [Twitter](#) (@AADskin) or [YouTube](#) (AcademyofDermatology).