



AANP Awards 2023

True Grit Award



Awarded to Dennis Godby, ND, MA

The following selection criteria is used:

The true grit award celebrates the tireless and thankless work of the naturopathic profession's volunteer advocates. It does not need to be bestowed annually, and may be awarded at the same time as other awards, or at another event such as a lobby day. The True Grit award goes to an ND who:

- is a steadfast advocate for the profession in all interactions;
- educates and influences health care consumers, providers of all types and/or the media on the positive impact of naturopathic doctors and the positive outcomes for patients who choose naturopathic care;

- has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to expanding access to naturopathic doctors by advocating the value of naturopathic medicine to government, health care institutions, corporate entities, or others;
- whose commitment to expanding access to naturopathic medicine has resulted in a policy or legislative change at the state or national level that advances the profession as a whole; and
- holds a vision for the profession and practice of naturopathic medicine that is larger than self, and selfless in nature.

Award presented by Laura Farr, Executive Director

AANP

True Grit is a somewhat new award, and was created a few years ago to celebrate the tireless and thankless work of the naturopathic profession's volunteer advocates.

Our True Grit award winner this year is someone who is walking 3,200 miles for his organization, Walk USA for Health Equity, where every stop, every opportunity, he educates about naturopathic medicine. Recently published a book called Health for All to raise awareness about health equity and naturopathic medicine.

Over the last 8 years, he has worked with many of our pre-licensed states in doing mini-runs across the state, holding press conferences and stopping in state capitals to bring visibility to naturopathic medicine in support of licensure laws. He's done these mini runs in Michigan, North Carolina, and New Mexico. And I say "mini-run" somewhat in jest. For most of us, his Mini-runs would be maxi enough - usually well over 25 miles spanning many days.

But for those of you who don't know him - his preferred distance is 3000+ miles, otherwise known as "across the country." I first met this doctor in 2011 when he launched the ambitious Run for Naturopathic Medicine - running more or less a marathon every...single...day...for four months, hitting 90 cities, and collaborating with the AANP, the schools, and all the state associations along his path. That's the distance that best matches his ambition and drive, and gives him the best opportunity to hold press conferences, events, and rallies at every stop - all to raise awareness about our beloved profession.

He has almost always been joined in his efforts to promote naturopathic medicine by his two sons Isaiah and Jeremiah, who are equally passionate about both running and about naturopathic medicine - I'm honestly surprised one or both of them haven't become naturopathic doctors themselves. While he's a stalwart member of multiple organizations, he doesn't officially

represent any single group - he's "just" a passionate ND from Sacramento whose passion and motivation are strong enough to embrace the whole profession from coast to coast. Dr. Dennis Godby leads with his heart and has embodied the spirit of the True Grit award in his decades of promotion of the profession. To everyone here, I present to you...Dr. Godby - and True Grit!

-Laura Farr