

Trained as a physician, Donald Ayers, MD, spent several years serving in the anesthesiology field after completing his residency at the University of Virginia Medical Center. He always participated in discussions and planning sessions that related to the business side of practices, and he developed a keen interest in the use of information technology (IT) in the course of business. Dr. Donald Ayers currently serves as a healthcare IT consultant and studies at George Washington University School of Business to earn his MBA. Outside of work, he devotes a significant amount of time to volunteer organizations in his community, including the American Red Cross.

The American Red Cross' Virginia Capital Region, headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, operates a special division dedicated to serving members of the armed forces and their families. The Red Cross often plays a vital role in assisting service members and their families with a broad range of challenges. For example, the Red Cross helps families of service members stationed overseas connect with them through the Emergency Communications Center.

The Red Cross also helps service members in numerous other ways. For instance, the organization helps families connect with resources in their own communities and counsels family members to help them cope with the challenges of life in the military. The Red Cross also supports military hospitals and the wounded warriors they treat and rehabilitate.