alongside them to communicate empathy and connection. By knowing and remaining closely attuned to her patient, Dr. B. grounded her practice in humanism, offering genuine emotional presence that enabled her to respond to the specific and evolving needs of her patient. With her words, silence, demeanor, and action, Dr. B. proved to a dying patient that she was with her as both a clinician and fellow human being. Doing so, she demonstrated that the most powerful medicine that can be offered is sometimes not found in a prescription or procedure, but in our presence, honesty, and humanity.

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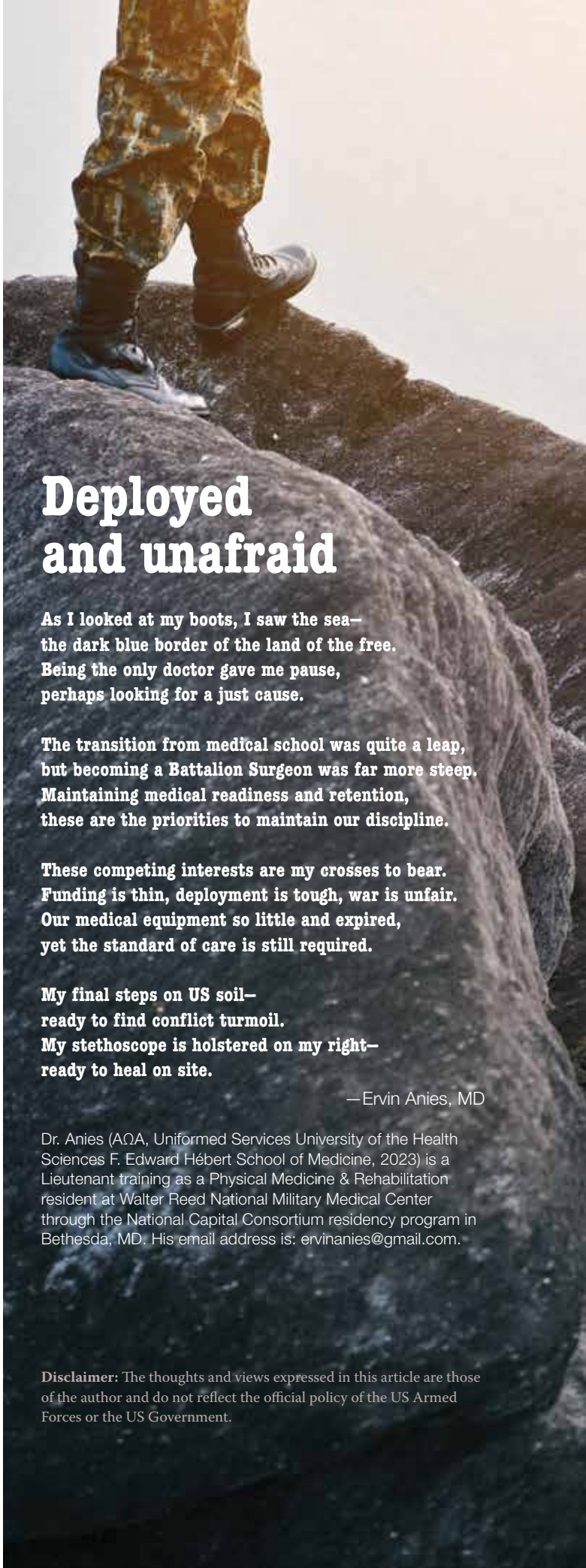

Deployed and unafraid

As I looked at my boots, I saw the sea—
the dark blue border of the land of the free.
Being the only doctor gave me pause,
perhaps looking for a just cause.

The transition from medical school was quite a leap,
but becoming a Battalion Surgeon was far more steep.
Maintaining medical readiness and retention,
these are the priorities to maintain our discipline.

These competing interests are my crosses to bear.
Funding is thin, deployment is tough, war is unfair.
Our medical equipment so little and expired,
yet the standard of care is still required.

My final steps on US soil—
ready to find conflict turmoil.
My stethoscope is holstered on my right—
ready to heal on site.

—Ervin Anies, MD

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