

# AWARDS BACKGROUND

Since the early 1900s, the American Nurses Association has presented awards to prominent registered nurses to recognize their outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and the field of health care.<sup>1</sup>

The awards program was established to pay special tribute to those individuals who, through distinguished service to the nursing profession:

- work for the improvement of health standards and the availability of health care services to all people;
- foster high standards of nursing; and/or
- stimulate and promote the professional development of registered nurses and advance their economic and general welfare.

A primary goal of the awards program is to inform members of the nursing profession, other health professionals, government officials, and the public of the outstanding accomplishments and significant achievements of individual registered nurses in the delivery of health care. In addition, the awards program assists the public in gaining a better understanding of the role of nursing and its significant contribution to the delivery of health care.

The ANA Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for approving the selection of recipients for all national awards. The board-appointed Committee on Honorary Awards and its nine subcommittees are charged to review all nominations for specific awards and make recommendations to the board.

Individuals selected to receive an award are honored each biennium during a ceremony held in conjunction with ANA's House of Delegates. Fourteen national awards will be presented in 2012:

- **ANA HALL OF FAME AWARD**, to recognize the lifelong commitment of individual nurses to the field of nursing and their impact on the health and/or social history of the United States;
- **BARBARA THOMAN CURTIS AWARD**, for significant contributions to nursing practice and health policy through political and legislative activity;
- **DISTINGUISHED MEMBERSHIP AWARD**, for outstanding leadership and participation in the American Nurses Association;
- **HILDEGARD PEPLAU AWARD**, to honor the field of psychiatric nursing;

---

<sup>1</sup>Provisions have also been made to honor, on special occasions, individuals who are not members of the nursing profession but have made significant contributions to health and/or nursing care.

- **HONORARY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD**, for outstanding commitment to human rights and exemplifying the essence of nursing's philosophy about humanity;
- **HONORARY NURSING PRACTICE AWARD**, for outstanding direct patient care;
- **HONORARY RECOGNITION AWARD**, for distinguished national or international service to the nursing profession;
- **JESSIE M. SCOTT AWARD**, for demonstration of the interdependent relationships among nursing education, nursing practice, and nursing research;
- **LUTHER CHRISTMAN AWARD**, to recognize the contributions that individual men in nursing have made to the profession of nursing.
- **MARY ELLEN PATTON STAFF NURSE LEADERSHIP AWARD**, to recognize significant contributions to the professional advancement of staff nurses and improvement of the general welfare of staff nurses;
- **MARY MAHONEY AWARD**, for significant contribution to opening and advancing equal opportunities in nursing to members of minority groups;
- **PEARL McIVER PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE AWARD**, for significant contributions to public health nursing;
- **SHIRLEY TITUS AWARD**, for outstanding contributions to the ANA economic and general welfare program;
- **STAFF NURSE ADVOCACY AWARD**, for excellence in patient advocacy for staff nurses providing patient care.

This brochure provides the established criteria for each award, outlines the nomination process and gives the deadline date for receipt of nomination materials.