

# BARBARA THOMAN CURTIS AWARD



The Barbara Thoman Curtis Award was established in 1991 to honor a nurse who has made significant contributions to nursing practice and health policy through political and legislative activity.

The Subcommittee on the Barbara Thoman Curtis Award reviews all nominations for the award and recommends a nominee for endorsement by the Committee on Honorary Awards and approval by the ANA Board of Directors.

## AWARD CRITERIA

1. The nominee must be a current CMA/ANA or IMD member.
2. The nominee, through demonstrated political activity (i.e., campaign work, fund raising, or lobbying), promotes the nursing profession in political and health care arenas.
3. The nominee, through education, advances the knowledge of nurses, politicians, and policy makers concerning the contributions of nursing in the health care field.
4. The nominee, through political or legislative leadership at the state and/or national levels, develops mechanisms<sup>4</sup> to promote the effectiveness of nursing's role in the provision of health care services through political and/or legislative activities.

## BARBARA THOMAN CURTIS

Barbara Thoman Curtis has been a catalyst for political activity and awareness within the nursing profession since the early 1970s. She has made significant contributions as a nursing leader serving on the ANA Board of Directors, ANA-PAC Board of Trustees, ANA Committee on Committees, ANA Finance Committee, and ANA Committee on Bylaws. Barbara "developed" the role model for the political nurse. She helped to pioneer ANA's involvement in politics and legislation and served as a mentor to countless numbers of nurses across the country.

Barbara Thoman Curtis has educated nurses on the political and legislative processes and nursing's role in the formation of health care policy for several decades and has earned the reputation of being a political activist for nursing. She continues to be called on by CMAs and other nursing organizations to provide her expertise and political insight.

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<sup>4</sup>In December 2001, the ANA Board of Directors approved the replacement of "policies" by "mechanisms" which is broader in scope and less restrictive than the former.

Throughout her nursing career, Barbara Thoman Curtis has been active in various political campaigns serving in a variety of roles (i.e., consultant, campaign manager, fund raiser, scheduler, and volunteer). Her work as a campaign coordinator for the 1986 congressional campaign of Illinois Nurses Association member, Mary Lou Kearns, RN, earned her a national reputation as a political force for nursing.