

# SHIRLEY TITUS AWARD



The Shirley Titus Award was established in 1976 in recognition of Shirley Titus who, at the 1946 convention of the American Nurses Association, urged that ANA formally launch an economic and general welfare program. The purpose of the award is to recognize the contribution that an individual nurse has made in addressing the ANA or its associate organizational members (AOMs), the United American Nurses and the Center for American Nurses, agenda for economic and general welfare workplace advocacy for registered nurses.

The Subcommittee on the Shirley Titus 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 award is to be presented to an individual nurse who has worked to address the agenda for economic and general welfare/workplace advocacy of the ANA or its associate organizational members (AOMs) at any level and brought significant national contributions to the program.
3. The nominee has expertise in the professional and technical areas of economic and general welfare.
4. The nominee contributes to the improvement of the quality of patient care.

## SHIRLEY TITUS

Shirley Titus served as executive director of the California Nurses Association from 1942 to 1956<sup>7</sup>. Under her leadership in 1943, CNA launched the first economic security program for nurses. The program was a blueprint for the economic security program endorsed in 1946 by the American Nurses Association. CNA adopted a resolution in 1946 for a 40-hour work week, the first in nursing history, which was implemented throughout the state in 1947.

In addition to her efforts in economic security was her pioneering work in nursing education. While director of Nursing Services and of the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, she established one of the first systems of general duty nursing, acting on her belief that general duty nursing would improve nursing education and patient care.

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<sup>5</sup> The California Nurses Association was a state affiliate of the American Nurses Association from from 1904 until 1995.

Shirley Titus was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Nurses Association and of the American Journal of Nursing Company. She died in 1967, having devoted her life to the progress of nursing in what she described as its "tortuous evolution from the status of a craft to the status of a profession."