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NEWS RELEASE



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AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION HONORS NURSING'S BEST
Thirteen Honorary Awards to be Bestowed at ANA's 2008 House of Delegates

SILVER SPRING, MD – Since the early 1900s, the American Nurses Association (ANA) has presented awards to prominent nurses in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and to the field of health care. On Thursday, June 26, 2008, as part of its 2008 Biennial House of Delegates meeting in Washington, DC, ANA bestowed Honorary Awards in 13 categories.

“These nurses truly epitomize the best of the nursing profession. Their commitment to advancing the profession, through education, through research, and through advocacy for their colleagues and their patients serves as an inspiration to nurses everywhere,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

The distinguished nurse honorees are as follows:

- **Mary L. Behrens, RN, FNP**, will receive the **Barbara Thoman Curtis Award** for significant contributions to nursing practice and health policy through political and legislative activity. An active political force in Wyoming since 1983, Behren has served as Mayor of Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County Commissioner and Natrona County State Representative and demonstrated political activity that promotes the nursing profession in both political and health care arenas. Testifying at state, national and international venues on nursing and healthcare issues, she has lobbied extensively for issues including: seat belt safety, clean water, energy use, the “Handle With Care” campaign, FIT Testing, and mandatory overtime.
- **Rachel E. Spector, PhD, RN**, will receive the **Honorary Human Rights Award** for outstanding commitment to human rights that exemplifies the essence of nursing’s philosophy about humanity. Spector has steadfastly worked towards the promulgation of “cultural competency” because she believes that “cultural competency reflects the essence of nursing’s philosophy and human rights.”

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- **Sister Theresa Graf**, EdD, RN, FNP, will receive the **Honorary Nursing Practice Award** for outstanding direct-patient care, well known as “Sister Terry,” she provides health services for poor and uninsured residents of Nassau County in New York. One of her projects, Rotocare, a community health service, caught the attention of a *Newsday* writer who stated, “Sister Terry and her band of volunteers rely on faith, dedication, and persuasion to offer health care to those the system can’t help.” On Jan. 28, 2001, *Newsday* printed a five-page spread in the Sunday “Life Section” detailing the work of this dedicated professional.
- **Lucille Joel**, EdD, RN, FAAN will receive the **Honorary Recognition Award** for distinguished national or international service to the nursing profession. The list of contributions Joel has made to the nursing profession is extensive. Her accomplishments are of national and international significance to nursing. A nursing leader from 1979 – 1983, Joel has served as president of the New Jersey State Nurses Association, and the president of the American Nurses Association from 1988-1992. Joel remains actively engaged at all levels of the profession contributing her time and talents to the nurses and the profession in her home state of New Jersey.
- **Marianne Matzo**, PhD, APRN, BC-GNP, FAAN, will also receive the **Honorary Recognition Award** for distinguished national or international service to the nursing profession. Known nationally and internationally as a nurse educator in palliative care nursing, Matzo has taught both taught doctors and nurses in Third World countries about palliative care for AIDS patients. Additionally, Matzo worked with the Medical Academy of Saint Petersburg, Russia, to institutionalize palliative care education in medical and nursing education.
- **Carolina Huerta**, EdD, RN, will receive the **Mary Mahoney Award** for significant contributions to advancing equal opportunities in nursing for members of minority groups. Since 1972, Huerta has embraced the challenge of developing and implementing higher education programs in nursing that would enhance the professional health opportunities for the millions of residents living in Rio Grand Valley and South Texas. With her vision and leadership, she has acquired administrative and state resources in the area of South Texas, to offer baccalaureate and master’s nursing programs for the Mexican-American citizens at Pan American College (now University of Texas-Pan American [UTPA]).
- **Joy F. Reed**, EdD, RN, will receive the **Pearl McIver Public Health Nurse Award** for significant contributions to public health nursing. Reed served on the Standards Workgroup for the Exploring Accreditation Initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in 2005-2006. Previously, Reed served as the Division of Public Health lead on establishing an accreditation system for local health departments in North Carolina. That system has been adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly and has received ongoing funding. Reed’s most recent work includes serving as chair of the ANA work group to revise the document, *Public Health Nursing: Scope & Standards of Practice*. The key document was published in 2007 and is now being used in the revision of the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s work to revise the certification exam for the specialty.

- **Rose Marie Martin**, BSN, RN, OCN, will receive the **Mary Ellen Patton Staff Nurse Leadership Award** for significant contributions to the professional advancement of staff nurses and the improvement of the general welfare of staff nurses. Very active in her local state nurses association, Martin has served in multiple leadership roles with the Ohio Nurses Association, and as a board member and chairperson of the Economic & General Welfare Commission. She has also served as president of her local unit (The Ohio State University Nurses Organization) and helped to write the local unit bylaws and articles of incorporation. Currently, she serves on the executive board of the Ohio AFL-CIO.
- **Gail Stuart**, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN, will also receive the **Hildegard Peplau Award** for contributions to the field of psychiatric nursing. Stuart has devoted 35 years of her professional life to advancing psychiatric nursing theory, research, education and practice. Stuart has participated in 29 funded research studies, exploring the many aspects of psychiatric care, including: patient compliance, medication efficacy, treatment of depression, anxiety and eating disorders, and mental health service delivery.
- **Rona Levin**, PhD, RN, will receive the **Jessie M. Scott Award** for demonstration of the interdependent relationships among nursing education, practice and research. Levin is a nationally recognized expert in evidence-based practice (EBP), and is one of the leading authors, innovators, and educators in this area. Dr. Levin is the first nurse in the U.S. to edit and write a book on evidence-based practice, *Teaching Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing*. Her book is being used by numerous faculty and hospitals across the country to teach nurses how to implement EBP so that a higher quality of care can be delivered and patient outcomes can be improved.
- **Pamela Cipriano**, PhD, RN, FAAN, will receive the **Distinguished Member Award** for recognition of her outstanding leadership and support of the mission of ANA. Having provided over thirty years of continuous service at both the state and national level to ANA and the American Academy of Nursing, Cipriano was appointed to the role of editor-in-chief for the official journal of the ANA, *American Nurse Today*. Cipriano oversees more than 3,000 University of Virginia (UVA) Health Systems employees, as the chief clinical officer and chief nursing officer, for the UVA Health Systems. She has written multiple articles for nursing textbooks and journals. She also serves as a clinical associate professor at the UVA School of Nursing. Dr. Cipriano recently led the UVA Health System to achieving Magnet Recognition, nursing's highest honor bestowed by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This honor, earned by only three percent of U.S. hospitals, recognizes excellence in nursing care and practice.
- **Deborah Hogan**, MPH, RN, will receive the **Staff Nurse Advocacy Award** for excellence in patient advocacy for staff nurses providing direct patient care. As a public health nurse in the state of Florida, Hogan is a “working supervisor,” providing direct patient care and coordinating the immunization program in her county for children and adults. In her role, she advocates for strengthening the nursing profession and improving the care of the citizens of Florida. In her innovative outreach program, Hogan utilizes an immunization van to provide preventive vaccines for the pediatric and the adult population, helping to protect them from flu and Pneumococcal disease. Not only does she advocate for patients rights, but she also serves as president of the Florida State Nurses Association health care professional’s bargaining unit, advocating in the legislative arena.

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- **Russell E. Tranbarger**, EdD, RN, FAAN, will receive the **Luther Christman Award** to recognize the contributions that an individual man has made to the profession of nursing. Tranbarger's spirit of professional activism has spanned his more than 40 years in nursing. Tranbarger spent his first thirty years as a registered nurse in practice, with ten of those years working as a staff nurse in medical/surgical nursing and the operating room. In 1971, while at North Carolina's Memorial Hospital, he collaborated with Dean Lucy Conant of the School of Nursing and she appointed him an adjunct faculty member, thus making him the first male registered nurse on the UNC School of Nursing faculty. Tranbarger is a tireless worker on behalf of the ANA through the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA), and the American Assembly for Men in Nursing (AAMN).

The ANA Honorary Award program is a lasting tribute to those nurses both male and female, who continue to ensure that the nursing profession remains viable through their roles as mentors, humanitarians, leaders, educators, collaborators, and advocates for professional nurses.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.