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**NEWS RELEASE**



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**THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION INDUCTS DR. HATTIE M. BESSENT  
INTO THE HALL OF FAME**

*Honor Bestowed During the 2008 ANA Biennial House of Delegates*

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The American Nurses Association’s (ANA) Committee on Honorary Awards recently inducted Hattie M. Bessent, EdD, MSN, RN, FAAN into the Hall of Fame as part of its 2008 Biennial House of Delegates meeting in Washington, DC on June 26, 2008.

Dr. Bessent has been the recipient of many firsts as an African-American woman, and has achieved many educational milestones that distinguished her from her peers, which has had a lasting impact on many generations of nurses.

Recognized as a pioneer for nurses of all ethnic minorities, in several studies conducted for the ANA, Dr. Bessent has documented significant barriers for members of minority groups of cultural, educational and financial nature.

“Leadership is a driving force in the accomplishments of any organization,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “By helping to educate generations of nurses, Dr. Bessent has helped to inspire women of all walks of life.”

With her leadership qualities as a fundraiser, she has been the recipient of several prestigious grants used to educate hundreds of nurses. By helping to educate generations of nurses, Dr. Bessent has helped to reduce health disparities that are often responsible for high rates of mortality and disability among people of color. The Leadership Enhancement and Development Project (Project LEAD), is one of her many projects used to educate minority and administrative minority faculty to assume leadership positions in colleges and universities throughout the country.

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Dr. Bessent's research has been published in some of the leading nursing journals in the world. Her findings have been presented at many conferences throughout the United States and abroad.

In addition, she has received numerous honors, including: induction into the American Academy of Nursing; a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association and an honorary member of the Royal College of Nursing (United Kingdom).

The ANA Hall of Fame is a lasting tribute to nurses whose dedication and achievements have significantly impacted the nursing profession throughout the years. Its members are honored in a permanent memorial located at ANA's headquarters.

Established in 1976, the Hall of Fame Award recognizes the life long commitment of individual nurses to the field of nursing and their impact on the health and/or social history of the United States. Among all the awards presented by the American Nurses Association (ANA), induction into the Hall of Fame represents the pinnacle of nursing achievement.

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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.*

