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NEWS RELEASE



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

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) proudly recognized Hattie M. Bessent, EdD, MSN, RN, FAAN, with its Hall of Fame Award at the association’s 2008 Biennial House of Delegates meeting in Washington, DC on June 26, 2008.

“As an African-American woman, Dr. Bessent is responsible for breaking down many cultural, educational, and professional barriers. As an educator, her work has impacted generations of nurses. As a health care professional, her strength and leadership has inspired women from all walks of life. Dr. Bessent serves as a role model to all nurses and ANA is grateful for her life-long dedication to nursing,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

In several studies conducted for ANA, Dr. Bessent has documented significant cultural, educational and financial barriers for members of minority groups. Dr. Bessent is widely recognized as a pioneer and advocate on behalf of nurses representing all ethnic minorities.

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. Additionally, she has received numerous honors, including: induction into the American Academy of Nursing; a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association and recognized as 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 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.