ANA MOURNS THE PASSING OF DR. MYRTLE K. AYDELOTTE

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) joins the nursing community in mourning the passing of Dr. Myrtle K. Aydelotte, who passed away on January 7 at age 92. Dr. Aydelotte, who served as ANA’s CEO from 1977 to 1981, had a long and distinguished career. She served in numerous leadership roles that underscored her commitment and passion for the nursing profession and was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in 1976 and became a Living Legend in 1994.

“On behalf of the American Nurses Association, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for Dr. Aydelotte’s outstanding leadership and the many significant contributions she made during her lifetime to the nursing profession and the patients she served. We extend our most heartfelt sympathies to her family and friends,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton MSN, RN, CNOR.

As a recognized nurse leader and academic innovator, she was considered a national authority on societal change and its effect on health care delivery. As the Founding Dean and Professor at the University of Iowa’s College of Nursing, Dr. Aydelotte also served as the Director of Nursing at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She received multiple awards and authored many publications, and served as a member to a number of professional nursing organizations.

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Dr. Aydelotte was a 1939 graduate of the University of Minnesota, and later received her PhD there in 1955. She served in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II, in the northern African and Italian campaigns. In retirement, Dr. Aydelotte became active as a community volunteer, sharing generously in the lives of those around her. She received the St. John's Communities Leadership Award in 2008.

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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 constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. 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.*