

## *Nebraska Nursing Hall of Fame*



### **Joan McVay, RN, EdD**

The forty years of teaching nursing in diploma and baccalaureate programs in Nebraska influenced the resultant care to residents especially those in the Panhandle of Nebraska. Joan was the key person who made the transition from the diploma program to the baccalaureate program possible as director of one and interim assistant dean of the other. The Honorary Alumnus Award presented at the 25 year anniversary of the University of Nebraska Medical Center West Nebraska Division in 2014 and the "My Favorite Nurse" award by a former student in 2016 supported the influence of her efforts. She retired with emeritus status.

From 1965 through 1966 Joan participated in a research project where her primary responsibility was to function and report experiences as a clinical nurse specialist on a medical unit. This was the initial exploration of the clinical specialist role in nursing. Her secondary responsibility was to assist in the analysis of the data. One outcome was a book by Rheil, J.P., & McVay, J. (Eds.). (1973). *The clinical nurse specialist: Interpretations*. New York: Appleton-Century Crofts. Three workshops in California and a panel discussion at the ANA convention in Dallas to 5000 participants as the first national effort to depict the wholeness of nursing practice resulted. My research dissertation addressed the need for a means to evaluate the affective domain in nursing education and the development plan for curriculum evaluation. The results were given to the curriculum committee of the college of nursing for utilization.

Throughout her nursing career as an educator, administrator, practitioner or student she has been active in the American Nurses' Association (ANA) in Utah, California, and Nebraska. At the district level served as president, vice-president, and board member. Served on committees including the Cabinet of Nursing Education in Nebraska. Chair person of the Interim Certification Board of the ANA and was the representative of California Nurses' Association for the Liaison Committee of the Southern California Hospital Association. The groundwork done by the interim certification board laid the foundation for the certification of nurses throughout the United States in medical nursing.

Administrative experiences that influenced the Panhandle Area of Nebraska included: director of the diploma nursing program, chairperson of the Panhandle Substance Council, first woman chairperson (renewed for a total of ten years) of the Panhandle Community Services (now known as the Community Action Partnership or Western Nebraska (CAPWN)), chairman of Friends of Alzheimer's and Other Dementias, chair of the administrative council of her church, chairman of Memory Walks in area for two years, and chairperson for the Advisory Committee to Western Nebraska Community College Practical Nursing Program in Scottsbluff. These activities resulted in being the 1999 Scottsbluff/Gering Business and Professional Women's "Women of the Year" award and in 2002 the Women of Distinction Award from Soroptomists International of Scotts Bluff County.

Joan participated in the role of a nurse in the physician's office, classroom, community setting and valued the Self-Care Deficit Theory of Nursing as a guide to her practice. She was active in starting the Neighborhood Family Service Center for health care underserved of the Panhandle of Nebraska and before licensure requirements as a nurse practitioner she participated in the solution of their health problems. She reported this experience in a chapter of a book entitled *Science and art of self-care* by J. R. Sisca published in 1980. During the summer months she would often seek learning experiences to remain current in her nursing endeavors.