IN MEMORIAM
Dr. Marcia Allene Dake
A PIONEER IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION
May 22, 1923 - July 24, 2014

Dr. Marcia A. Dake spent her career committed to the establishment and enhancement of professional Nursing. She began her career in 1944 with a diploma from Crouse Irving Hospital School of Nursing, Syracuse, New York. She then spent 14 months in the Cadet Nurse Corps and was sent to Ft. Dix for basic training, then to Rhodes General Army Hospital, Utica, NY and on to Hawaii in 1945. She was deployed with the 172nd General Hospital, sailing into Yokahama, Japan on V-J Day. After being assigned to the 161st Station Hospital, she returned to the States while tending to wounded soldiers. After serving as an Army nurse, she returned to New York State and for three years worked for the New York Public School, in Greenwood, NY as a School-Nurse Teacher.

One of the advantages of active service was the educational benefits. Utilizing scholarships and the GI Bill, she completed a Bachelor of Science degree in public health nursing at Syracuse University in 1951 and in 1955 a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum-Teaching at Teacher’s College, Columbia University, New York, NY. In 1958, a National League of Nurses Fellowship allowed her to complete a Doctor of Education also from Columbia University. With this degree she became one of the first ten doctoral prepared nurses in this country.

She completed her education at the age of 35 and was quickly recruited as the first Dean in a totally new Medical Center at the University of Kentucky. Dean Dake actually built the college from scratch, hired the first faculty and worked with them to design the curriculum to create an innovative collegiate nursing program. The first class of baccalaureate students began the nursing program in 1960. In 1964 the first class of 15 students graduated. Under Dean Dake’s leadership the college received full accreditation in 1965 and the Faculty Senate approved the Master’s program in 1969.

In 1963, she was honored for her military and nursing service and was appointed to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS). She also served as the President of the Kentucky League for Nursing. She was honored at Kentucky with the College’s first endowed professorship named the Marcia A. Dake scholarship.

In 1972 she left Kentucky and became Director in the Department of Nursing Education for the American Nurses Association in Kansas City, Missouri. As part of the staff she was responsible for the Commission to study Nursing Education throughout the U.S. In 1974 she became the Project Director of Nursing Education at Milliken University, Decatur, Illinois for a nine month study of the feasibility of a baccalaureate nursing program at this University.

In 1975 she took a position as the Director for Program Development in Nursing and Health Services at the National Headquarters for the American Red Cross in Washington, DC. While at this job she coordinated and developed all the educational material for the 8th edition of the Red Cross’s Textbook “Family Health and Home Nursing.”

In 1979 her career came full circle and she was recruited as the founding Dean of Nursing by James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. She again rose to the challenge of recruiting the faculty to create the curriculum for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. In 1981 they admitted their first nursing class. During her tenure as Dean she was President of the Virginia Colleges of Nursing and President of the Alliance of Virginia Nursing Organizations.

In 1988, she retired to Sun City Florida. Ten years later she returned to “Greenspring” a new retirement community in Springfield, Virginia. In 2008, she received the President’s Lifetime Service award for giving more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service while living at Greenspring.

On April 18, 2008 in New York City she was inducted into the Nursing Hall of Fame at Teachers College Columbia University by the Nursing Education Alumni Association.