

Colorado Nurses Association Hall Of Fame

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Carol O'Meara, RN, MSN, WHNP-C



- One of the first Maternal Child Nurse Practitioners in Colorado, she practiced as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner for over 50 Years, most of those years at Kaiser-Permanente. She was recognized as an expert Clinician, a leader, and precepted countless Advanced Practice Nursing Students.
- Provided sustained leadership to both the Colorado Nurses Association and the Colorado Nurses Foundation. She served many terms on the CNA Board and served in all officer positions, as well as on numerous committees and task forces. She was a founding member of the Colorado Nurses Foundation and served on the CNF Board since its inception.

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Elizabeth M. Pace, MSM, RN, CEAP, FAAN



- She received her BSN from Metropolitan State College and her Masters in Management from Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- She has supported legislative issues related to nurses, addiction/recovery, and the Nurse Practice Act throughout her career.
- She was a founder of Nurses United for Recovery, Support and Education Successfully (NURSES) which became Peer Assistance Services (PAS) and has provided continuous leadership for NURSES/PAS for 40+years.
- Her passion is to help nurses as well as dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists and other professionals to get treatment and return to practice while maintaining public safety and client health.

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Douglas Warnecke, RN, MSN, CRNA



- Served his entire career at Denver Health
- Did substantial work impacting Advanced Practice Nursing to remove scope of practice barriers and achieve full prescriptive authority
- Developed the first site for training student registered nurse anesthetists in Colorado

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Karren E. Kowalski, PhD, RN, FAAN



- Karren graduated from Indiana University with a BSN in 1965. She worked as a staff nurse in labor and delivery, then joined the Army. She served in a MASH hospital in Vietnam and then at Landstuhl General Hospital in Germany. She arrived in Colorado in 1969 and began work at Colorado General Hospital.
- She went back to school at CU for a master's degree and later accepted the position of director of Maternal Child Services at PSL. She was also Assistant Vice President of Rush PSL in Chicago and Administrator of The Women's and Children's Hospital.
- Karren has been an active member of CNA since 1971 and was President in 1977 and 1978. In 1981, Karren was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, and is currently serving on the BOD.
- Dr Kowalski has written more than 50 articles for referred journals well as 3 textbooks on Women's Health Care. She established her own consulting firm several years ago in health care, administration, and Women's and Children's Care.

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME



Cheryl Blankemeier, RN, BSN, CRNA

- She received BSN from University of Maryland and nurse anesthetist education in US Army Nurse Corps
- She practiced as a CRNA nationally and internationally from 1980-2013
- As a Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthetists leader, she established, in 2004, the first Political Action Committee for the association
- She has testified at the State Legislature and at rule-making and policy hearings
- She was in the forefront of efforts to influence two governors to opt out of a federal regulation requiring physician supervision of CRNAs
- She has written a history of Colorado CRNAs
- “Cheryl Blankemeier knows the whole story. We thank her for learning and sharing our story, but most of all for being a huge part of creating our story”

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Sara Jarrett, Ed.D, MS , CNS, CNE, RN



- She has been a member of CNA since the early 1970s and involved since the 1980s with CNA's public policy and advocacy activities
- Her career in nursing has spanned 40 years
- She help students understand the importance of association membership and involvement
- She was CNA President for four years and served on Gov. Romer's Panel of Health Policy Advisors
- She served for four years on the ANA-PAC board and two years as chair. She led the endorsement committee's interview process for presidential candidates including for future President Obama
- "Sara has created a legacy ... that demonstrates ... that nurses are capable, knowledgeable, credible, and thoughtful policy experts"

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Althea Williams, Col., ANC, Retired



- She graduated Fort Collins High School, 1938, and attended Beth El School of Nursing
- She returned to Fort Collins in 1941, joined DNA 9, earned \$70 per week working two shifts
- She first joined the military a year later, serving in southwest Pacific
 - She attended CSU on the GI Bill
- She joined the Reserves in 1949, then went on active duty during Korean War, serving in Japan. She earned Master's in Hospital Administration from Baylor University
 - During Vietnam, she was chief nurse of USARV and the 44th Medical Brigade
- She returned to Fort Collins and was active in DNA 9 until the late 1970s
- Williams contributed to the 'professionalism and emergency preparedness of nursing'

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME



Dorothy Babcock, RN, MS, CNS

- Her book, 'Client Education, Theory and Practice,' received the AJN Book of the Year Award
- She was one of first psychiatric clinical nurse specialists in Colorado to conduct a private practice
 - Through Friendship Bridge, she traveled to Vietnam and Thailand to provide nurse educators skills to qualify them for entrance into BS programs
- She was recognized by her peers as an innovator, creator and outstanding role model
- She was an educator at Metropolitan State College for 16 years
- She was a lifetime member of the Colorado Nurses Association

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Sylvia M. Clark, MPH, RNC, CNM



- She graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 1958 and practiced in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas and Greece before settling in Colorado
- She attended the University of Colorado Medical School and studied to be a Family Planning Nurse Practitioner
- She worked with Planned Parenthood in Colorado Springs for 17 years and headed Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains in Denver
- She worked in other capacities until her retirement in 2002
- She was a member of the Colorado Nurses Association and DNA 3
- She was a 'tireless and passionate advocate of women's health care and was known and praised internationally for her work as a nurse'

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Dorothy Gregg, RN, BS, MA

- Dorothy “Dort” Gregg began her career in psychiatric nursing in 1947 at the State Hospital in Pueblo
 - After obtaining her Master’s at Columbia University in New York, she returned to CU in May 1952 as associate professor and coordinator of the psychiatric nursing program
 - She served as a mental health consultant for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
 - She presented at numerous national and regional meetings and authored articles on psychiatric nursing that were referred to years later
 - She was a lifetime member of the American Nurses Association
 - Her 'numerous theoretical contributions to nursing literature are professionally recognized classic publications'



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME



Carol Schoffstall, RN, PhD, MSN

- Undoubtedly her most significant accomplishment was the merger of Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
- The merger greatly expanded the number of students able to pursue education in nursing and other health sciences disciplines
- Her grant writing abilities helped gain very large grants to support program and physical facility improvements
- She worked with El Paso County to start two innovative nurse practitioner practice sites that focus on cost effectiveness and clinical excellence
- She was recipient of the 'Notable Achievement in Education, Administration and Research Award'
- She is highly respected by nurse educators, students, community and higher-education leaders throughout the state

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Oca Cushman, RN

- She came to Colorado while and married an educator who died soon after. She eventually moved to Nevadaville with her sister
- In 1900, she was admitted to Denver's St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing and was later employed at the hospital
 - Excelling as a supervisor, she was recruited to be the first superintendent of the newly opened Children's Hospital. In 1908, she became a member in the Colorado State Trained Nurses Association. She was a member for 50 years, serving as president from 1920-22
- The Denver Business and Professional Women's Club cited her Woman of the Year in 1936
- Her legacy to Children's Hospital and to Denver was long lasting



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Dorothy DeNiro, RN, MSN, PhD



- Dorothy DeNiro's education began with a diploma at St. Mary Corwin School of Nursing, Pueblo
- She achieved an MSN and PhD at the University of Texas where she studied under Hildegard Peplau; she used Peplau's writings as a basis for teaching counseling skills to nurse
- Her career has been dedicated to nurses, nursing education and patients in Pueblo and in southeast Colorado
- During a 21-year tenure at the Colorado Mental Health Institute, she developed many innovative health issues; the hospital was named the best state hospital in the U.S. by the Public Citizen Health Research Group and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- DeNiro feels her most important contribution to nursing has been bringing individual together in unique ways to further nursing's professional goals

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Mary C. Walker, RN

- She completed the nursing course at the Colorado Training School at Denver General Hospital in 1931 and did graduate study in nursing education at Colorado State College and Columbia University, New York
- She was director of nursing services and the School of Nursing at Lincoln General Hospital, Nebraska
- She was assistant director of the Colorado Training School at Denver General until 1942, when she entered the army, returning in 1946 as a lieutenant colonel
- Upon her return, she was director of nursing services, Branch 13, of the Veterans Administration
- She became director of nursing services for the Red Cross before retiring in 1967
- She was CNA's president from 1948-1952, instrumental in obtaining financial support for the headquarters.
- She continued to work various CNA committees until 1990



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME



Eleanor Clark Bent, RN, BSN

- She graduated from Children's Hospital School of Nursing, Boston, in 1943, and spent the next 22 months serving in the Army Nurse Corps on the Louis A. Milne hospital ship
- She received her BSN degree from the University of Utah in 1970 and a master's degree in community health from CU in 1973.
- She began her career with the American Red Cross in 1970; during her tenure, she established continuing education classes for the Red Cross through CNA
- She served as DNA 12 president for six years in the 1970s, attending all but one CNA convention from 1975-1999, and she served as co-chair of the 90th Anniversary Celebration
- Her 'commitment and passion for nursing inspires others, and she is known as one who puts her beliefs into action'

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Julia Ray Work, RN

- In 1913, she graduated from Beth-El Training School. Her long and dedicated nursing career focused on the families and children of Colorado Springs
- She was a school nurse with the Visiting Nurses Association and a city-county public health nursing. During World War I, she proudly served in England with the Red Cross Army Nurse Corps
- She was an early member of the Colorado Nurses Association and maintained this commitment for life. Her dedicated membership in District 3 in Colorado Springs led her to serve as president and, for many years, as secretariat and historian of the association
- She retired in 1964 after spending 51 years in active nursing
- Her memory and spirit 'lives on in the lives of many nurses from Colorado Springs, who knew her as their inspiration, mentor, nurse and guide'



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME



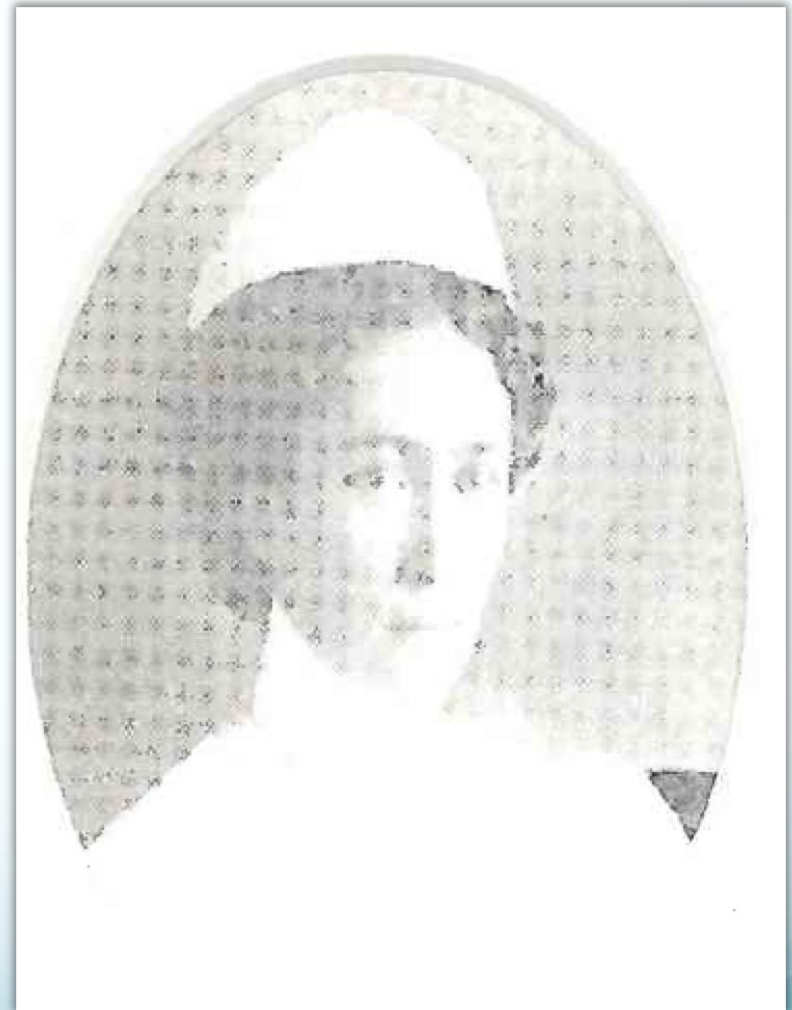
Deloris Giltner, PhD, RN, CS

- She graduated from Seton School of Nursing in Colorado Springs in 1948, received her BSN from the University of Colorado and an MS in Psychiatric Nursing from the University of California at San Francisco in 1969, and a PhD in Higher Education from the University of Denver in 1979
- She worked in psychiatric nursing and in education for 44 years, teaching at Metropolitan State College and the University of Colorado School of Nursing
- She was a member of DNA 4 and DNA 20 since 1948 and twice she was president of Colorado Nurses Association, 1974-75 and 1980-81.
- She planned, directed the opening of and was director of nursing at Boulder Psychiatric Institute
 - Through the National League of Nursing, she evaluated at nursing educational program at Carroll College, Helena, Mont., and took interim directorship
- Her long career and groundbreaking work in the area of psychiatric nursing and nursing leadership left a legacy for Colorado and national nurses

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Gertrude Potts Ragan, RN

- She was the first president of DNA 9. On Dec. 16, 1935, a telegram arrived at her home in Loveland: “District approved by Board of Directors. Best wishes for speedy organization. Irene Murchison.”
- She graduated from Dr. Sutherland’s Hospital in 1907 and became supervisor of Love General Hospital in 1909
- In 1934, she was sponsored by Larimer County Commissions as one of three county school nurses
- In 1952, she was described as the oldest public health nurse in Colorado at the age of 69
 - She continued on with DNA 9, filling various offices and often having the annual Christmas party at her home. She was chair of the delegates to convention in Denver in 1950; she was vice president in 1951.
- She was hailed as a pioneer by her peers and called the ‘Mother of DNA 9’



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Melva Steen, RN, PhD, BSN



- She received her PhD in psychiatric-mental health nursing from University of Texas, Austin
- She served on the board of review for Issues in Mental Health Nursing for several years. As chair of the department of nursing at the University of Southern Colorado - Pueblo, she worked on initiation of a master's program in nursing
- She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa after her retirement in 2002
- She worked on many community boards. HOPE Alive sponsored her as a delegate to the UN Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995
- She joined CNA when she moved to Colorado in 1992, serving as president of DNA 4 and acted as mentor and resource for CSU-Pueblo faculty
- Her research and articles on women and depression have been used as resources by authors and practitioners

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Judith Frankenburger, RN, MSN

- She came to the U.S. from England after serving in the British Air Force during World War II
- She received her AA in nursing in 1971 and her MSN at age 60. Throughout the intervening years, she practiced in many areas but found her niche in emergency room nursing
- She participated in the Southern Colorado Regional Emergency and Trauma Advisory Council
- She served the interests of retired citizens, completing a seven-year gubernatorial appointment to the Consumer Insurance Advisory Board. She volunteered as a state health insurance provider with AARP and received the AARP Ethel Andrus Award in 2006
 - Her active contributions are her ongoing dedication to the profession of nursing, her volunteer work, her advocacy work for senior citizens and her professional example for students, nurses, community and state leaders



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Elda Popiel, RN, MS

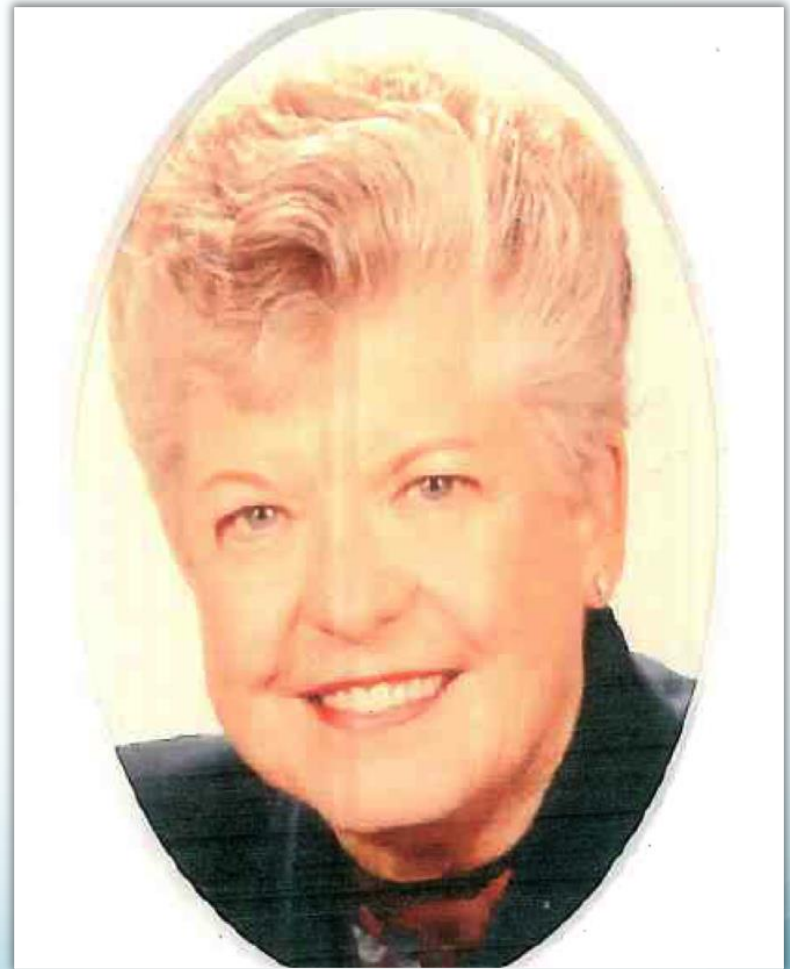


- She received a diploma in nursing from Research Hospital in Kansas City, Kan., in 1934 and graduated from Avila College four years later
- She worked at Research Hospital and, when her first husband died, at Roseland School District and University of Kansas Medical Center
- In 1956, she moved to Denver, remarried, became a CU-School of Nursing teaching fellow and earned an MS three years later
- On the Boulder campus in the late '50s she taught freshman students about nursing history. She retired professor emeritus in 1974
- She provided leadership in a host of continuing education initiatives and was creative and courageous in developing an educational mechanism during a great controversy about the expanded role of the nurse
 - She was CNA president from 1969-70.
- Through her efforts with Loretta Ford, PhD, RN, she pioneered the first nurse practitioner program in the nation

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Lola Fehr, MSN, RN, CAE, FAAN

- She graduated from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in 1959 and received a BSN from the University of Denver in 1960
- In the hospital setting, she progressed from medical-surgical night nurse to staff development to director of nursing service
- She joined CNA in the 1970s and became executive director in 1980
- She was executive director of Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, or AORN, in 1990, returning to CNA as interim executive director in 2000
 - She was treasurer of CNA and later treasurer of the American Nurses Association
- She served as president of the CU School of Nursing Alumni Association and as executive director of the New York State Nurses Association
 - She has demonstrated outstanding leadership with voluntary organizations



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME



Marilyn Doenges, BSN, MA, RN

- She graduated from Aultman Hospital School of Nursing in Canton, Ohio, in 1943. She served at Ashford General Hospital in West Virginia and in the European Theatre at the 227th General Hospital in France
- She and her older sister came to Boulder to enroll at the University of Colorado using the GI Bill, 1947. She joined the Colorado Nurses Association in 1965, was DNA 3 Nurse of the Year and has been awarded the ANA and CNA Pearl-Encircled Pine
 - She served as a delegate to ANA conventions in 1976 and 1984
- In 1968, she began teaching psychiatric nursing for Seton School of Nursing in Colorado Springs. She created the first Psychiatric Nurse Private Practice in Psychotherapy in Colorado Springs in 1980
 - In 2003, she received the Nightingale Special Award for 60 years of dedication to nursing

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Karen O'Brien, BSN

- She holds a BSN from Wichita State University and an MS from Kansas. She is an ANCC-certified nurse practitioner and a clinical nurse specialist
- She served as the director of public health nursing at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, where she led the work of more than 500 Colorado public health nurses
- She she served as an ANA delegate for four years and received the CNA award for Outstanding Contribution at the State Level in 1999
- Left with permanent paralysis from polio in 1953, she was encouraged not to pursue a nursing career with its physical demands — and was denied entry into nursing school
- She feels her great contribution is living with her passion and dream to provide empowerment and caring to those that need to believe in themselves



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Ruth Colestock, RN, BA



- She was one of four women students in the first two-year intensive nurses' training program after World War I and completed her diploma in nursing as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, 1920.
- Working closely with Henrietta Adams Loughran, she revised curriculums, planned national conferences and developed post-graduated certificate programs on the way to becoming a collegiate school of nursing
 - During her tenure, she contributed measurably to the advancement of nursing and nursing education
- She served as president of the Colorado State Nurses Association from 1932-1934 and was on the State Board of Nursing for five years
- She was known for her energy, friendliness and generous giving of self

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Ruth M. Harboe MSN, RN

- She received a BS in Nursing from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 1945 and an MSN from CU in 1967.
- Her primary focus was the education of nursing students. She taught classes in six institutions, including the Community College of Denver, the University of Northern Colorado, Metro State College and CU.
- She was a member of ANA and CNA for more than 40 years, serving as president of DNA 20 from 1970-72. She was Region 1 Director and Board member from 1981 to 1983. She held several offices in Sigma Theta Tau, including president, 1979-80
- She held offices in the Colorado Cancer Society and received two honorary awards
- She was active in Friends of Nursing, working diligently to solicit money for nursing scholarships
- Her professionalism and dedication has positively affected the nursing practice



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Jo Eleanor Elliott AM, RN, FAAN

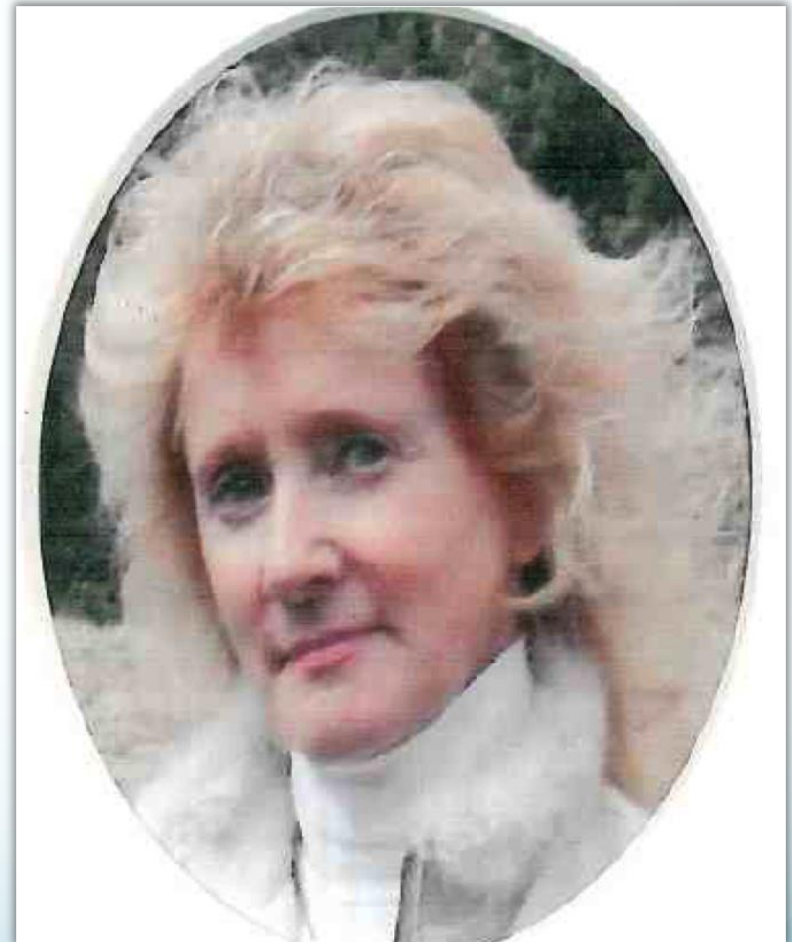


- She received a BSN degree from the University of Michigan with a major in nursing education from the University of Chicago
- She served as director of nursing programs for the Western Council on Higher Education for Nursing, a consortium of collegiate schools of nursing within the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
- She joined the Colorado Nurses Association in 1957 and was president from 1972-73. She was president of ANA from 1964-68. She served on the first board of the International Council of Nurses from 1965-69
- In 1980, she became director of the division of nursing at the U.S. Public Health Service, Washington, D.C. She served until 1989
 - Her career has been that of providing leadership in nursing education, nursing research and nursing organizations towards the goal of improving the practice and patient care

COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Mary Wall RN, BS

- She received her nursing diploma from Presbyterian School of Nursing in Denver in 1965 and a BS, Allied Health, from Colorado Women's College in Denver in 1979. She also holds ANCC certification in nursing administration since 1992
- As nursing administrator at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs, she created a shared governance model for med/sur units, a nursing forum for staff nurses, a nursing credentialing process for office nurses, and she developed a nursing loan fund for nurses who needed funds to return to school
- After leaving Penrose, she established the first nurse-owned and -operated hospice company in Colorado Springs and also established a nursing student rotation in hospice care
- She has been active at both the state and district levels, serving as ANA delegate as well as a DNA 3 officer
- She is an advocate for and has brought recognition and honor to the profession



COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Louie Croft Boyd RN



- She came to Denver at 21 and enrolled in the Colorado Training School for Nurses, graduating in 1899. She went to Chicago to complete post-graduate training, returning to Denver to teach at Denver General
- She was superintendent of nursing at Denver General, St. Luke's and Rio Grand Hospitals in Colorado and Wyoming General in rock Springs, Wyo. She sought roles where she could affect working conditions and educational standards
- In 1904, she was among a small group of nurses who formed what was incorporated as the Colorado State Trained Nurses Association, now CNA. She was the association's first lobbyist, and wrote was to become HB32 and SB9, providing for licensure of nurses. When the bill, she became the first licensed nurse in Colorado
- Licensure of nurses led to improved and consistent education, which in turn elevated the role of the nurse and gave dignity to the profession