AANP Congratulates Dr. Loretta Ford on her Induction to the National Women’s Hall of Fame

The well-known founder of the nurse practitioner (NP) movement Dr. Loretta Ford was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame on October 1, 2011. Dr. Ford was accepted as an inductee following the completion of lengthy nomination forms by a dedicated group of Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANPs). The Loretta Ford Nomination Committee included FAANP members Margaret McAllister, Mary B. Neiheisel, and Mary Ann Dumas, with staff support from Mary Jo Goolsby and Nancy McMurrey. Dr. Ford is a charter member of the FAANP and attended the first induction ceremony of the initial group of Fellows in 2000. The following account of the induction and additional activities comes from Dr. Mary Neiheisel, a member of the committee and attendee at the weekend events. Fellows can read the expanded version with many more photos in the November issue of the FAANP Forum.

Seneca Falls is the ideal place for prestigious women to join the Hall of Fame and no less so for Dr. Loretta Ford. In 1848, Elizabeth Stanton delivered the "Declaration of Rights and Sentiments" to the first women’s rights convention in Wesleyan Church in Seneca Falls. In the declaration she states, “man has tried to destroy woman’s confidence in her own powers, to lessen her self-respect, and to make her willing to lead a dependent and abject life” (McMillen, 1944). Dr. Ford and many NPs initially suffered these same inequalities and injustices.

Induction Weekend began for Dr. Ford on Thursday with talks and a reception at nearby Rochester University where she was the Founding Dean for the School of Nursing (see related story at http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/news/story/index.cfm?id=3135). On Saturday the 11 honorees (6 living and 5 deceased) were formally inducted and presented with the Women’s Hall of Fame prestigious medal (see photo). Each inductee or representative then made a presentation. Dr. Ford reminded us that “an education is priceless and the benefits endless.” In her usual manner of crediting others, Dr. Ford acknowledged her husband, daughter, her role models and all NPs. The complete list of 2011 inductees can be found at http://www.greatwomen.org/news-and-events/current-news along with further information about all 247 women in the Hall who have made such a difference in our world.

Many NPs, nurses, family members and friends were in Seneca Falls to pay homage to the NP founder. Among those attending were FAANP members Drs. Penny Kaye Jensen, Mary Anne Dumas, Judith Lynch, Barbara Sheer, and Mary Neiheisel. Dr. Penny Kaye Jensen, AANP President, accepted the certificate recognizing the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the Fellows as sponsors.

All the members and staff of AANP congratulate Dr. Loretta Ford on her induction into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

Reference