



American Academy of Nursing Bestows Prestigious Honors on Opening Night of 2017 Policy Conference in Washington, DC

*U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Deputy Surgeon General Sylvia Trent-Adams Receive Awards;
Five Exemplary Nurse Leaders Designated as Living Legends*

Washington, DC (October 5, 2017) -- In front of a crowded ballroom of nurse leaders, health care colleagues and family members, the American Academy of Nursing honored seven exemplary individuals with prestigious awards for extraordinary achievements at its annual policy conference. Five of the honorees were designated Living Legends, one received the President's Award and another was presented with the Civitas Award.

The **President's Award**, which recognizes an individual who has made an extraordinary, lifelong contribution to improving the physical and/or mental health of individuals, families or communities, was given to **U.S. Senator Susan Collins** (R-Maine).

"Senator Collins has earned a national reputation for working across party lines on a variety of important issues, including those impacting health," said Academy President Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN. "This year, Senator Collins has continued her steadfast commitment to improving health by opposing legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act which she believed did not represent the best interests and needs of vulnerable Mainers and fellow Americans."

The **Civitas Award**, which honors an individual who exemplifies extraordinary dedication to excellence in promoting high quality nursing care, was bestowed to **Deputy Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Sylvia Trent-Adams**, who was inducted into the Academy as a fellow in 2014. RADM Trent-Adams had served as Acting U.S. Surgeon General from April to September 2017.

"Rear Admiral Trent-Adams has dedicated her professional life to improving access to care for poor and underserved communities. As a clinician and administrator, she has had a direct impact on building systems of care to improve public health for marginalized populations domestically and internationally," Dr. Berkowitz told the audience.

The **Living Legends** honor recognizes Academy fellows who have made unique, outstanding, and long-lasting contributions to both the nursing profession and to society. Since the award's creation in 1994, there have been 104 distinguished individuals designated as Living Legends. In introducing the 2017 cohort of Living Legends, President Berkowitz said, "This evening, we are thrilled to recognize five Living Legends whose vision, leadership and contributions have shaped and advanced the nursing profession."

- **Linda R. Cronenwett, PhD, RN, FAAN**, is renowned for leadership in improving healthcare quality and safety, promoting advanced nursing practice, and integrating research, education, and nursing practice. A pioneer of grounding research in practice, she models ways of bridging theory and clinical problems to improve outcomes. Currently professor, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and co-director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows Program, Dr. Cronenwett serves on many national healthcare boards and councils.
- **Elaine L. Larson, PhD, RN, CIC, FAAN**, is an international expert in infection prevention, antimicrobial resistance, and hand hygiene. Her contributions have changed the way healthcare is delivered by emphasizing the importance of infection prevention and hand hygiene for all health professionals. The interdisciplinary nature of her work is evident in the breadth and wide dissemination of her 500 scholarly publications. She is currently professor and associate dean for research at Columbia University School of Nursing and Mailman School of Public Health.
- **Carolyn A. Williams, RN, PhD, FAAN**, former president of the Academy (1983-85), has had a profound impact on public health epidemiology and nursing education. Her groundbreaking work advocates for population-focused research and care to be cornerstones of community health. She championed the growth of primary care nurse practitioners and the evolution of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). As Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Nursing (1984-2006), she opened the nation's first DNP program.
- **Nancy Fugate Woods, PhD, RN, FAAN**, former president of the Academy (1989-91), is a renowned women's health expert and a strong voice for diversity. Her pioneering research on the menstrual cycle, menopause, and post-menopause has resulted in improved understanding of factors influencing symptoms. As Dean of the University of Washington School of Nursing (1998-2008), Dr. Woods issued a public apology for institutional racism that served as a catalyst toward improvements at her institution and within the profession.
- **Connie Henke Yarbro, MS, RN, FAAN**, is a visionary leader in interdisciplinary cancer care, practice and research. She pioneered the role of the oncology nurse at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1972 and co-founded the Oncology Nursing Society in 1975. She led the development of practice standards and chemotherapy guidelines, and has authored countless oncology publications, including the field's "bible" textbook. A past board member and president of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, Ms. Yarbro has co-led breast cancer training programs for nurses in 20 countries.

The American Academy of Nursing's 2017 Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference, October 5-7 in Washington, DC, showcases the extraordinary work nurses are undertaking to drive policy changes that meet the health needs of individuals and populations. The conference highlights nursing initiatives that are transforming

health, leading change, influencing policy, and ultimately improving the nation's health.

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About the American Academy of Nursing

The American Academy of Nursing (www.AANnet.org) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy's more than 2,500 Fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and health care.

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