

## **Martha Turner, Citation**

Every recipient of the Human Rights and Nursing Awards is outstanding and impressive. All of them surprise by their expertise, courage or inventiveness.

Her nominators and supporters spoke of Martha Turner with admiration for her enormous achievements, her personal warmth and deep commitment, and her leadership grounded in authenticity. Her achievements are significant and more than could possibly be detailed. One of her friends quoted her as saying that she fell in love with nursing early on, and one would need to add, with ethics in nursing in particular.

Martha began her career in the US Air Force as a nurse in a clinical unit and finished her military service as a university professor and the Ethics Consultant to the US Air Force Surgeon General. Over a forty-year nursing career she made major contributions to nursing ethics worldwide. She has an impressive capacity to synthesize data and has shown exceptional skill in mobilizing others to develop and improve ethical work environments. She has educated nurses and military health care professionals on ethical issues in health care delivery and ethical challenges in humanitarian missions all over the world, including India, Vietnam, Thailand and Japan.

From early in her career Martha provided leadership in the Oncology Nurse Society, the International Society of Nurses in Genetics, and the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Disparities taskforce. Her ethics expertise in genetics significantly influenced the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Evaluation Genomic Application Prevention Practice Stakeholder Group; the Health and Human Services Advisory Council on Genetics, Health and Society; and the Institute of Medicine Roundtable Translating Genomics Based Research for Health.

Martha is not only a born leader, but also a born educator in a wide field of subjects. She has taught courses on ethics and safety, pain management, end of life care, research ethics, deployment ethics for medical students, and preventive medicine and public health ethics for the Uniformed Services University in the US, where she

was also Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Nursing. After retiring from the Air Force, she followed up on work done in Rajasthan, India, and returned to teach the ethics content to graduate students. She worked with fellow military retirees to create a BSN program at a new university in southern Vietnam. She built a curriculum with ethics running throughout. In this way undergraduate students learned ethics theory and the practical applications in leadership, safety and research. She has worked with the executive staff of a new Vietnamese hospital in creating an education department, teaching ethics and safety based on WHO guidelines, and developing leadership among the nursing, medical and administrative staff. She will be returning there this year to help prepare the staff for accreditation.

Martha's CV makes fascinating reading of the diversity of work she did and topics she addressed. She taught deployment ethics for medical students in preparing for military assignments; generated new policies and training for aeromedical evacuation; helped to develop and revise many of the American Nurses Association Position Statements, including those on pain management, end of life care, capital punishment, use of restraints, human rights, foregoing nutrition and hydration, health disparities, cultural diversity, therapeutic uses of marijuana, and moral distress. She helped in the preparation of many more documents, particularly on confidentiality, adapting standards of care under extreme conditions, research and genomics. She liaised with Vietnamese and Indian Military Medics; proposed a Center for Military Healthcare Ethics at the Uniformed Services University and often served as an expert panellist on the economics of global health, cultural issues and ethics in public health disasters.

Her sponsors laid most weight on Martha's recent co-authorship, as content writer and revision coordinator for the 2015 American Nurses Association *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*. Not only has Martha participated fully as a leader in developing this newest *Code*, but she has also consistently reviewed and commented on other national and international codes of ethics. She has the rare gift of asking pertinent questions and the analytical ability to integrate ethics into all roles and practice settings, making her unique among ethics professionals.