



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING

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A Tree Planting Ceremony Posthumously Honors Nursing Icon *Garde dedicated more than 50 years to profession before passing*

PARK RIDGE, Ill. – Colleagues and leaders from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) and the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) gathered on July 23, 2010 to plant a Japanese Maple Shirazz tree in memory of John F. Garde, CRNA, MS, FAAN, former Executive Director of the AANA.

AAN, the organization for nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, policy, and research, bestowed this honor on Garde for his significant contributions to the nursing community. The ceremony, which took place two days after the first anniversary of his death, was held on the front lawn of the AANA building.

“Though it is John Garde’s historic body of nursing achievements that we will remember, it is his giving heart that we will miss. Many of us in the profession of nursing have benefited from his guidance, mentorship and support,” said Christine Zambricki, CRNA, MS, FAAN, who presented a plaque on behalf of AAN’s Board of Directors. “There are too many people to count who are changed because of his influence. This is his legacy.”

Garde’s legacy included a brief stint leading AAN. In 2003, he accepted a position as Interim Executive Director, moving from Chicago to Washington, DC. Over this short time, Garde maintained the day-to-day operations and helped the organization prosper.

Garde passed away on July 21, 2009, shortly after being diagnosed with cancer. At the time of his death he was serving as AANA Interim Executive Director; he previously served as AANA Executive Director from 1983-2001. With a career in anesthesia that spans more than five decades, Garde became an anesthesia provider in 1958, working as a staff anesthetist at US Public Health Hospital in Detroit. Less than five years later, he was hired as Division Head, Department of Anesthesia at Detroit General Hospital.

In 1964, Garde began to put his indelible mark on nurse anesthesia education when he served as Program Director for the Wayne State University Program for Nurse Anesthetists. He went on to become an Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anesthesia, College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at Wayne State University.

“We are proud that John’s contributions to the profession, as a Fellow and as a member of our staff are a significant piece of our organization’s history,” said AAN President Catherine L. Gilliss, DNSc, RN, FAAN. “His engagement, influence and leadership resonated with many organizations. He will continue to be missed.”

Other honors in memory of Garde include:

- On Nov. 12, 2009, the AANA Board of Directors unanimously voted to change the name of its library to the John F. Garde Memorial Archives and Library. Garde’s passion for and knowledge of nurse anesthesia history was well known. It was during Garde’s 18-year tenure as AANA Executive Director that the need to establish an archives and library for nurse anesthesia became apparent.
- At the American Nurses Association (ANA) House of Delegates on June 18, 2010, Garde was inducted into the ANA Hall of Fame. The award recognizes an individual’s lifelong commitment to the field of nursing and its impact on the health and/or social history of the United States.

A CRNA for more than 50 years, Garde received his master’s degree in physiology from Wayne State University’s School of Medicine in Detroit, and his bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Detroit. In addition, he earned his anesthesia diplomas from the Alexian Brothers Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago, and a nursing diploma from St. Francis School of Anesthesia in La Crosse, Wis.

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About the American Academy of Nursing(AAN)

The American Academy of Nursing (www.aannet.org) anticipates and tracks national and international trends in health care, while addressing resulting issues of health care knowledge and policy. The Academy’s mission is to serve the public and nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge

About the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)

Founded in 1931 and located in Park Ridge, Ill., the AANA is the professional organization for more than 90 percent of the nation’s CRNAs. As advanced practice nurses, CRNAs administer approximately 32 million anesthetics in the United States each year. CRNAs practice in every setting where anesthesia is available and are the sole anesthesia providers in approximately two-thirds of all rural hospitals.