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AAN Remembers Living Legend, Dr. Mary Woody

WASHINGTON – The American Academy of Nursing (AAN) recognizes the remarkable career and life of Mary Woody, PhD, RN, FAAN, a nurse pioneer, educator and leader who assumed many influential roles that improved patient outcomes and increased opportunities for nursing to provide high quality health care. She passed away on April 28.

Woody, a charter Fellow of the Academy, was recognized as a Living Legend in 1997. The honor is bestowed on nursing's most accomplished who have made lasting contributions to the profession and society. During her career, Woody was the founding Dean of Auburn University School of Nursing in 1979, an associate Dean at Emory University School of Nursing, Chair of the Board of Directors at the *American Journal of Nursing*, and worked stints as Director of Nursing at Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

She was instrumental in developing many innovative programs, which included nurse-managed clinics, a nurse-staffed diabetes day care, patient-education programs, and nurse midwifery services.

“The Academy celebrates the life of Dr. Woody, whose leadership and forward thinking opened up the doors for many advanced practice nurses to provide care at the highest level of their expertise and training,” said AAN President Catherine Gilliss, DNSc, RN, FAAN. “Our Living Legends are our honored professional resources; we will miss her wisdom and leadership.”

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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