



Dr. Myrtle Irene Brown

Dr. Myrtle Irene Brown, R.N., PhD., F.A.A.N., 92, died Thursday August 2nd, 2007. A memorial service will be held at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, with burial in Mason City, Illinois.

Irene, as she was known to most, was born February 1, 1915 in East Peoria, Illinois to the late Clifford and Sarah Pauline Scoville Brown. Her sisters Hazel Howell, Eva Eichelberger and Helen Sutton predeceased her. She graduated as valedictorian from Central High School and Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, both in Peoria. She earned a B.A. degree in Nursing Education and a M.S. degree in Public and Child Health from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, both magna cum laude. In 1959, she received her PhD in Educational Sociology and Anthropology from New York University. She was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Eureka College in 1978.

In addition to her long, illustrious career as a nurse, educator, researcher and educational administrator, Irene was a dear friend and mentor to an untold number of people. She conscientiously encouraged and nurtured future nursing leaders during all aspects of her professional life. One of her greatest interests was focused on supporting the growth and development of individuals, and she experienced a great deal of satisfaction in helping them reach their highest potential.

Early in her nursing career, Irene was an instructor in Advanced Pediatric Nursing at Montana State College Deaconess Hospital in Great Falls, Montana. She studied and researched child health care with Dr. Benjamin Spock and during the late 1940s polio epidemic she worked with the renowned Sister Kenney in developing treatments and caring for those stricken with polio. As her career interests turned toward gerontology, she studied with and taught the concepts of grief and hospice care developed by

Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross and Cicely Saunders, founder of the hospice movement in England.

Following her work with Sister Kenney, she served as a consultant in Maternal-Child Health with the World Health Organization in Delhi, India. Upon her return to the United States, she was appointed Assistant Professor in Maternal-Child Health at Johns Hopkins University and was later an Associate Professor of Community Health and Medical Practice at the University of Missouri. She traveled all over the country sharing her knowledge and expertise as a Nurse Research Consultant with the American Nurses Foundation,. In the late 1960s she accepted the dual position of professor and Dean of the School of Nursing at Duke University.

From 1970 until her retirement in 1980, Irene was a professor and the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs at the University of South Carolina College of Nursing. She was instrumental in creating graduate level programs that were the first in the state of South Carolina, and among the first in the nation to be developed. The Master's degree programs in nursing and the Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner programs were established during her tenure as Associate Dean.

She was an internationally known researcher in Maternal-Child Health, Gerontology, and the role of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. In addition to over twenty-seven publications, she reviewed manuscripts for numerous professional nursing journals and books, and was a speaker at countless professional meetings.

She was a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, a member of the American Nurses Association, the South Carolina Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing Education, the American Sociological Association, the SC Governor's Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators, the SC Sickle Cell Advisory Council, the SC Governor's Ad-Hoc Committee on Health Care Delivery, Sigma Theta Tau, a life member of the Trained Nurse Association of India, and an Emeritus Member of the American Public Health Association. In addition to these professional organizations, Irene was a long-time member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church where she served as a choir member, a Lay Reader, and a Eucharistic Lay Minister. She was a board member of Finlay House Episcopal Housing Corporation, a member of Altrusa International, a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina Task Force on Aging, a member of the Board of Trustees at Eureka College, an honorary member of the Iris Garden Club, and served as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem.

She is survived by beloved nieces and nephews, Shirley Jett, Karen Bixby, and Eugene Sutton of Peoria, Illinois; Jack Sutton of Littleton,

Colorado; Roger Sutton of Charles City, Iowa; Jean McClain of Herod, Illinois; Alosea Carlson of Salt Lake City, Utah; Sally Jo Caracheo of Elgin, Illinois; Tony Eichelberger of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews. She is also survived by goddaughter Patricia Sutton Falatko of Peoria, Illinois; godson Timothy Hawley of Middleton Connecticut; through Children Incorporated, adopted daughter Pamala Acuna from Tarija, Bolivia; friend and caregiver Edna Swartzbeck, and her precious kitties Eddie and Faux Paw.

A special thank you is extended to Mattie Young, Dr. Linda Morphis, Dr. Rosa Jimenez, Dr. Donald Alexander, Susan Uehling, Palmetto Health Baptist Hospice, and to all who have been so loving and supportive.

Irene faced her death as she lived her life – with serenity, courage, and grace. She leaves a legacy of future generations who will continue to put into practice what she taught. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Dr. Myrtle Irene Brown Fellowship Fund, College of Nursing, University of South Carolina Educational Foundation or the Scoville-Brown Scholarship Fund at Eureka College, 300 East College Avenue, Eureka, Illinois, 61530.