MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DOROTHY DUMMER PETROWSKI

Dr. Dorothy D. Petrowski, Associate Professor in the Health Maintenance Department of the School of Nursing, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, died on September 14, 1987 at the age of 60. She had fought with vigor and courage against cancer for three years.

She held a diploma in nursing from the Swedish Hospital School of Nursing, a B.S. degree from Loyola University, an M.P.H. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. She had held faculty positions at West Virginia University, The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and the University of Texas. Early in her nursing career, she worked as a staff nurse and supervisor in hospital and community based settings. Dr. Petrowski joined the UWM faculty in 1978.

Dr. Petrowski was an expert in community health nursing and had recently begun a sabbatical to study alcoholism. In August, 1987, just two weeks prior to her death, her paper, "Ethical Issues in Alcoholism Interventions", was presented at the Annual Conference of National Nurses' Society on Addictions in Chicago.

Dr. Petrowski influenced many students in community health nursing through her innovations in course development and enrichment. Petrowski, whose own husband died in 1960, also did research on the health needs of widows. This research led to the development of support groups for this high risk population. In addition, she taught graduate and undergraduate courses such as epidemiology, community health practice, and international health. She served as consultant to educational institutions and the National Institutes of Health. For ten years, she was an Accreditation Visitor for the National League for Nursing, the accrediting body for nursing education programs.

Her abiding interest in community health nursing was evidenced by the publication of her text, Handbook of Community Health Nursing, which is considered a classic on that subject, her active membership in the American Public Health Association, and continuing research on the health needs of special populations such as widows and alcoholics.

A third generation Poemermanian, Dr. Petrowski enjoyed her many activities with the German Club and continued her German classes during her illness. She delighted in entertaining and was known for innovative party-giving. She was proud of her stamina and swam nearly every day; her high level of physical fitness and her wry, ironic sense of humor were strengths during her final illness.

She found support in her Lutheran faith and contributed in many ways to her church. She was an artist and gave her paintings as special gifts. Her friendship was loyal and supportive of exploring diverse paths. She is missed.
In recognition of Dr. Petrowski's contributions and her interest in community health nursing, the Department is establishing an award, Recognition in Community Health Nursing.

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