

In Memory

Patricia Lynne McCollom

Patti McCollom, a visionary in case management and life care planning, passed away on October 6, 2007 after a long illness.

Patricia Lynne McCollom, RN, MS, CRRN, CCM, CDMS, CLCP, FIALCP, obtained her nursing degree in 1965, her master's degree in rehabilitation counseling in 1978, subsequently leaving her mark on the professional practice areas of nursing, case management, and life care planning through teaching, service, and her more than 40 years of practice.

As a life-long educator, Patti began teaching in 1966 as Nursing Instructor at Iowa Methodist Medical Center, rising to the position of Assistant Director of Nursing Services in 1979. Throughout her career, she received teaching appointments at Drake University's rehabilitation counseling program and the College of St. Francis, as well as adjunct faculty status with the University of Florida. With regard to life care planning, she taught numerous courses at professional training programs as well as developed portions of the on-line education curriculum for Kaplan University and the University of Florida's distance learning program. Related to educating others within the fields of life care planning, nursing, and case management, Patti authored more than 70 book chapters, articles and editorials.

What is most extraordinary is Patti's history of service to the profession. As an exceptionally well-liked visionary, she was President of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (national), Chairperson of Commission for Case Manager Certification (national), vice president of the Board for the Foundation for

Life Care Planning Research, member of the annual international life care planning conference education committees, and the first editor of the *Journal of Life Care Planning*. Patti has also been a member or officer of many other national, local and statewide organizations. It is notable that she has received awards from at least four organizations for her service work.

However, one organization is her legacy. In the mid 1990s, Patti saw a need for a professional association, and was the first nurse to start an organization

dedicated to nursing practices and life care planning when she founded the American Academy of Nurse Life Care Planners in 1996 which welcomed all professionals with an interest in life care planning. To be more inclusive and welcome all professionals with an interest in life care planning, the group later became the International Academy of Life Care Planners (IALCP) which is now a section of IARP. In recognition of her contributions, she was honored with IARP's Kevin Karr Innovative Rehabilitation Procedure or System Award in 2005.

In summary, Patti, a wonderful colleague, throughout her life was as a "mover and shaker" who developed and promoted rehabilitation and life care planning concepts through presentations, articles, book chapters, teaching, and service

within many organizations. At the International Symposium of Life Care Planning's Lifetime Achievement Award presentation just two weeks before her passing, she said "I do not want to be remembered for what I did, but for what I am." Patti, you can rest in peace for your wish has come true.

