

Marcia M. VanWagner

A Short Bio

I was born in Buffalo, NY and grew up in a very small town in upstate New York, Watkins Glen. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Skidmore College. For the first 10 years of my professional practice, I tried a number of specialties finally settling on pediatric nursing and in 1975, joined the US Army Nurse Corps. My post-graduate education as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the military laid the groundwork for a dual career as a PNP in civilian practice and an Army Officer in the US Army Reserves.

On the civilian side, I was busy. I earned my American Red Cross Nursing Badge by designing an obstetrical service for expectant mothers delivering after the evacuation of a local hospital during the flood of Hurricane Agnes. I served on the Washington State Board of Child Abuse and Neglect. I was a member of the Board of the Washington State Birth to Six Project, chairing the committee which developed intervention standards. I was active in the local chapter of the National Association of Nurse Associates and Practitioners (NAPNAP) as President of the Washington chapter.

I practiced as a pediatric nurse practitioner in county health departments, providing direct care as well as managing the maternal child health programs for the county. In 1989 I joined a private pediatric oncology practice in Portland, OR. I developed and managed the school liaison program to ease the transition back to school after cancer treatment.

Throughout my professional practice years I had some sporadic teaching affiliations and precepting responsibilities for pediatric nurses and pediatric nurse practitioners. In 1998, I became a full time clinical instructor in pediatrics at Walla Walla College School of Nursing, a baccalaureate program in Portland, OR.

In 2001, I moved to SCLH and looked around for something to do! In 2003, I became a Director of the Lincoln Hills Foundation. In 2004, I developed and began teaching a workshop titled "Getting Your Stuff Together", designed to organize your estate. In 2005, I was one of five founding directors of Neighbors InDeed, a nonprofit corporation providing support services to seniors in the community.

My military career has been just as busy. In the late 70's I was stationed in Germany, working with a large population of dependents. I was a member of the team which developed the US Army's first treatment model for parents who abused their children in a military setting. I presented this model at the First International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect in Geneva, Switzerland. During the 80's I was the Officer in Charge of a team which developed an exportable LPN program for US Army Reservists qualifying them for state licensure and a military specialty. In the US Army Reserves I served as the NBC Officer for the unit as well as Assistant Chief Nurse and Chief Nurse. In 1990, I was selected as the Chief Nurse of the 50th General Hospital of Seattle, WA just as the hospital was deployed to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for service during the First Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm). After the war I was the US Army Reserve Chief Nurse at Madigan Army Medical Center until I retired as a Colonel in 1996.

In between, I raised two fabulous children: daughter Gretchen, married with a son in Portland, Oregon and Peter, a professional chef in Cincinnati Ohio. My husband, Larry Wilson, is a retired dentist and a retired US Army Dental Corps Lieutenant Colonel.

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