

OFHS



WALL OF FAME

Inducted November 13, 2006



KARLA WITT NACION, PhD, CNM, RNC-WHNP

Karla Witt moved to Oconto Falls in 1957 and graduated with the OFHS Class of 1968. She was a 1972 Summa Cum Laude graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, WI. Karla Witt and Robert James Nacion of Toms River, New Jersey were married on March 10, 1973.

She went on to serve on Active Duty in the U.S. Navy, Nurse Corps at several Naval Hospitals. She was one of a few Nurse Corps Officers selected to provide care for the Prisoners of War returning from Viet Nam. After active duty, she attended the University of Illinois in Chicago, and received a Master's Degree in Nursing with a specialization in Nurse-Midwifery. She completed a Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing Sciences in 1988 with a concentration in health care administration.

Dr. Nacion joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1988 in the Nurse-Midwifery and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Programs where she has specialized in Women's Physiology. In 1990, after a 10 year hiatus from military service, Dr. Nacion activated her status in the Navy Reserve. She has held a variety of leadership positions in field and hospital units across the country, and was mobilized during Operation Desert Storm. She received the rank of Captain in the Navy Reserve in 2000.

In 1994 she earned her certification as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. Dr. Nacion has been instrumental in the establishment and coordination of the Nurse-Midwifery Practice at the University of Illinois Medical Center. In 2006, the UIMC Nurse-Midwifery Practice managed the care of 40% of the women admitted to the medical center for birth. The Nurse-Midwifery Practice is also responsible for the clinical supervision of advance practice nursing students and physician residents. In addition to these activities, Dr. Nacion is the Co-Director of Clinical Core, Center for Excellence in Women's Health at the University of Illinois. Her research in the areas of effective health care models has been published in professional journals. She has received numerous awards including the American College of Nursing Regional Award of Excellence in 2003. Dr. Nacion is a frequent speaker on health care topics. She was honored in 2004 with the Volunteer of Year Award, by the Chicago Chinese American Service League for her work in educating Chinese women on osteoporosis.

Robert J. Nacion passed away in 2003 after a short illness. She has two children, Rachel Suzanne Nacion and Robert Gerald Nacion.