

Marcie Knudson Memorial Scholarship



Type: Endowed

Amount: Varies depending on investment income/loss (approximately \$750)

Offered: One per year

Deadline: Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

Established: 2004

Special Criteria: BSN student who is enrolled full-time. Preference may be given to a student from the 11-county service area in Northeast Iowa and who has an interest in surgical nursing.

Marcella Knudson's daughter Karan Flanscha and her son Keith Knudson, D.D.S. established this scholarship to keep alive Marci's memory, and the memory of her love of nursing and particularly Allen College.

Marci's career in the Allen Hospital operating room spanned five decades. It began when she graduated from Allen Memorial Hospital Lutheran School of Nursing in 1952. She went to work as a staff nurse in the operating room. From 1957-1967 she left the hospital to raise her daughter and son. In 1976 she was named head nurse in the surgery department and later served as nurse manager until she retired in 1995.

A registered nurse and a certified operating room nurse, she served as treasurer of the local chapter of the Association of Operating Room Nurses and was a delegate to several of their national conventions.

"Mom truly had a love of surgery and was very dedicated to her profession," her daughter Karan said. "She was very highly regarded by the operating room staff. So many people in the hospital knew her and it seemed everyone loved her."

Marci was somewhat overwhelmed by the number of signatures she received from her co-workers at her retirement party. The signatures came on signed pieces of fabric. Those fabric pieces helped to launch a new pastime. She sewed them together to create a signature quilt, her first of many quilts.

She joined "Keepsake Quilters", a local quilting club, and co-chaired "Quilts to Share", a group that makes quilts for premature babies, battered women's shelters and hospice organizations. She was also active with "The 52 Club", a group of her classmates from the school of nursing that gathered for lunch once a month.

She was married to her husband Garold (Gary) until he died in 1988. Before her own death, she enjoyed the time she was able to give to her great-granddaughter, Allison, and later to her great-grandson Gage as their daycare provider. She cherished the time she spent with the little ones who called her "Grammie".