



UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association Inaugural Dorothy M. Patach Spirit of Service Award

DOROTHY M. PATACH, BSN, MSNED, BSHE

Dorothy Patach is a native of Omaha, Nebraska. She has spent her life and career practicing and teaching nursing, and advancing the nursing profession.

Dorothy received her nursing diploma at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln in 1944, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and a Master of Science in Nursing Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. During her diverse career, Dorothy worked at Jenny Edmundson Hospital School of Nursing, Clarkson Hospital, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Working in the operating room, Dorothy accumulated many unique experiences.

In the mid-1950s, Dorothy developed surgical drapes for new procedures that were later made into pre-packaged sterile plastic drapes by the Minnesota Mining Company. She assisted with the testing of Formula 99, a liquid soap, which in bar form later became "Dial Soap." She was part of a team that modernized the old Clarkson Hospital operating room which went on to receive the "Hospital of the Year Award." When asked what motivates her, Dorothy says, "I was raised to serve mankind and keep my community healthy and safe. In nursing, you work to meet the medical, physical, and emotional needs of your patients, which is truly rewarding."

Dorothy's service to the nursing profession is vast and comprehensive. Among the many professional organizations she has been involved with, Dorothy has served in leadership roles in the Nebraska State Nurses' Association, the District 2 Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing, the Nebraska League of Nursing, and in every office on the UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association Board of Directors. She continues to volunteer at UNMC, including in the Alumni Relations Office.

Dorothy has been involved with community and neighborhood betterment since 1945. She is involved with countless South Omaha community groups, including the South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance, the South Omaha Business Association, and the South Omaha Community Care Council, among many others.

In 2001, the Omaha City Council passed a resolution that designated a parcel of public property to be named the "Dorothy Patach Natural Environmental Area." This was in honor of her commitment and activism on behalf of neighborhoods, civic organizations, the environment and public health. In her free time, Dorothy enjoys gardening and yard work, sewing and hand crafts, non-fiction reading, home repair, and working to improve her community!

