

Press Release 3/7/08**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Brooklyn VA Intensive Care Unit awarded the Beacon Award for Critical Care Excellence by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses**

by Raymond P. Aalbue, VA New York Harbor Healthcare System Public Affairs Officer

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK --- The VA New York Harbor Healthcare System (VA NYHHS) Combined Intensive Care Unit (CICU) at the Brooklyn Campus has earned the Beacon Award for Critical Care Excellence. Specifically designated to recognize the nation's top hospital critical care units, the award is given by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) the largest specialty nursing organization in the world. AACN represents the interests of more than 400,000 critical care nurses.

"The Brooklyn VA medical center's CICU is the first Intensive Care Unit in New York City and the first unit within the Department of Veterans Affairs nationwide to be awarded this prestigious award," pointed out Cynthia Caroselli PhD., RN, Associate Director for Patient Services and Chief Nurse Executive at the VA NYHHS. "Patients in ICU's are among our most vulnerable, with little room for error. Nursing care must be precise and delivered with split second speed. I am particularly proud that the care delivered by our nurses is not only of the highest scientific quality but is also characterized by warmth and specific concern for the patient as an individual.

The Beacon Award recognizes units for exhibiting the highest quality standards in nurse recruitment and retention, patient outcomes, staff training, and healthy work environments.

The criteria for becoming a Beacon Award winner include: recognized excellence in the intensive care environments in which nurses work and critically ill patients live; recognized excellence of the highest quality measures, processes, structures and outcomes based upon evidence; recognized excellence in collaboration, communication, and partnerships that support the value of healing and humane environments. The last criteria for a Beacon Award winner is the unit developed a program that contributes to actualization of AACN's mission, vision and values. There were only nineteen Beacon Awards presented this spring.



The dedicated nurses from the Combined ICU of the Brooklyn Campus of the VA New York Harbor Healthcare System.

Kathleen Malone, MS, RN, CCRN, is the Patient Care Team Coordinator of the Combined ICU. "One of the remarkable things about this is there are 10 registered nurses on the Brooklyn team who have served their nation during a time of war," she said. "They served during Vietnam and Desert Storm, and now our current war in Iraq. Four nurses are still active in the Army Reserves. This is a great example of Veterans helping Veterans."

A Major promotable to Lt. Colonel in July, Ms. Malone is one of the four. She has served on active duty for 10 years and another nine in the Reserve component. She is a Desert Storm Veteran and is currently assigned to the 8th Medical Brigade as an instructor for the Army Battlefield Trauma Readiness Program at Kings County Medical Center, in Brooklyn, where she prepares Reservists to be deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

"I am proud to be a part of this team of highly dedicated nurses. To be recognized as one of the nation's top hospital critical care units is a testimony of our high standards and our unwavering dedication to provide the best care for our Veterans of all generations."

Along with Magnet designation, the Beacon Award is the highest achievement possible for an Intensive Care unit. Ms. Malone is proud to say, "The 16 Bed ICU in Brooklyn provides the highest level of care for our sickest Veteran's."

Interested Media: A digital photograph of the ICU Unit will accompany this press release via email. Caption is included in the file info of the .jpg.

For more information please contact the VA New York Harbor Healthcare System Public Affairs Office at 718-630-2804.

