



Regina Ferguson Dowling, R.N. **Class of 1948**

Regina Nell Ferguson Dowling (FHHS Class of 1948) was a “Florence Nightingale” pioneer nurse researcher in the specialty field of Transfusion Medicine. She worked 28 years at NIH, starting as a staff nurse, and eventually promoted to Head Nurse and Supervisor in Transfusion Medicine including Apheresis, Blood Component Therapy, and Bone Therapy. Regina was the first to: become a registered nurse in her family, work with patients on a continuous-flow cell separator, develop nursing protocols and procedures for Apheresis, teach both Nurses and Allied Health Groups of ASFA procedures for Apheresis, be elected to the Board of Directors for the American Society for Apheresis (ASFA), and have a department named in her honor at NIH.

Regina was one of 5 children of Ralph and Edna Ferguson, graduated from Fort Hill High School and from Memorial Hospital School of Nursing class of 1952, and then worked as a bedside and head nurse for 10 years.

Throughout her career she was acknowledged by physicians and co-nurses as an exemplary role model with high standards doing “what was right for the patient.”

Regina was recognized for her contributions in both Who’s Who in the East and Who’s Who Among Nurse Specialists. She received numerous awards during her career for the development of patient and donor record system, management skills, and a Recognition and Special Achievement Award from U.S. Department Health and Human Services, NIH Bethesda. She was a member of American Society for Apheresis and Society for Hemopheresis. In recognition for her work the portion of the NIH Medical Center where Regina worked now carries the name of “The Dowling Apheresis Clinic.”

Regina passed away May 20, 2014. She left a legacy for care and treatment of patients with Acute Leukemia and Aplastic Anemia.