

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### BESSIE LAWRENCE (1903 – 1972)

Bessie Lawrence, emeritus assistant professor of nursing at Stanford University, died in Palo Alto, California on Tuesday, February 8, 1972. She came to the Stanford School of Nursing on January 1, 1936 and remained on the faculty until August 31, 1965.

To those who had the privilege of being closely associated with Bessie Lawrence, she truly exemplified the spirit of nursing. Members of the medical profession with whom she worked have expressed their admiration for her concern for patients and her goal of high quality care for all. She was a true practitioner. This dedication was reflected in her teaching. She had a genuine interest in students and they in turn, freely sought her advice and counsel.

Bessie Lawrence was born in Antrim, Ohio, on December 16, 1903. She was graduated from Western Reserve University School of Nursing in 1926 and received a B.S. degree from Western Reserve University in 1934 and an A.M. degree from Stanford University in 1953.

Her professional experience included administrative and teaching positions at Lakeside Hospital, Lawrence Private Hospital and Marietta Memorial Hospital in Ohio and the University of California Hospital Training School for Nurses in San Francisco previous to her work at Stanford.

Her twenty-nine years at Stanford University were continuous except for three years during World War II when she was granted a leave of absence by Chancellor Ray Lyman Wilbur for active duty with the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. She was a member of the Stanford Medical unit and served in North Africa and France. She was an active member of the U.S. Army Reserve and when she received retired status she was Chief Nurse of a General Hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco and held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Bessie was an active participant in the professional nursing organizations and held honorary membership in the Stanford Nurses Club. She had many and varied interests, which included the Sierra Club, the Union Presbyterian Church of Los Altos, and the Los Altos Garden Club.

Her warm, gracious personality, her responsiveness, her cooperation, and above all, her integrity, left a lasting influence upon the lives of her students and friends.

Survivors include four sisters, Mrs. Mildred Trotter, Miss Mabel Lawrence, Mrs. Glenna Bernheim, Mrs. Mary Louise Wardeska, and a brother, Wade S. Lawrence.

Esther Conroy  
Florence McDonald  
Ruth Nutting  
Grace Ringressy, Chairman