

1341 Boulevard Lorraine, SW

Atlanta, GA 30311

May 9, 2018

Timothy Davis, Interim Director of Operations

Georgia Nurses Association

3032 Briarcliff Road

Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Mr. Davis:

I have been delighted to find that the May, June, July 2018 copy of the Georgia Nurses publication contained a special salute to my mother, Inetz C. Stanley. Until her recent death in March this year, my mother remained a tireless advocate for the field of nursing and for the continued recruitment and support of African American nurses. She was proud to have been a Grady Graduate nurse and working professional in that hospital system. As history notes she was also willing to challenge some of the unacceptable practices and treatment of all levels of employees in the Grady Hospital system. In a similar manner, I must protest how this article appeared in the publication.

While I think the article about my mother's historic role regarding the Georgia Nurses Association is very good in content, I am writing you to protest how the article was titled and presented to the Association members and any other person reading that article. In the title banner, "Inetz Stanley, First Colored GNA Member", I absolutely found the use of the word "Colored" both archaic and degrading. I am puzzled that no one in the current GNA organization did not find the use of the word questionable at least.

Just to step back into history, the word "colored" is much associated with the very racial dividedness that my mother was protesting when she sat at the GNA meeting that eventually accepted her as its first member and opened the door for membership of all qualified, African American nurses in Georgia. "Colored" is the word associated with separate and not equal access to schooling, housing, transportation and other public services. It is a very outdated term that recalls the worst aspects of racial segregation.

What I find very disturbing is that a widespread membership has already read this article with the use of the word "Colored" which at the time my mother was waiting to speak with the GNA Board that evening, the word Negro had become the popular denotation for the 1960s and rapidly moved toward the use of "Black" and "African American," the latter of which is more generally used now. The word "colored" is so outdated that I am surprised that the writer even thought to select it for the inclusion in the title. Yes, in its period of separation, there was a Grady Memorial Hospital School of Colored Nursing, but that is a historical note for the time of its chartering in 1917, not for contemporary thought.

Timothy Davis

May 9, 2018

Page 2

I have spoken with you by telephone and in person when I came to get copies of the publication last Friday. On both times, I reiterated my comment that I found the title completely unacceptable with the use of the word "colored." While an edited copy may be presented again, the damage has been done by its first reading which is the hurtful part of this situation. While I would have loved to have shared this salute joyously numerous times, I found I personally could not do it. It simply saddened me to see that word "colored" and I have held those copies I obtained from your office for my family to contrast with the revised copies whenever they are ready.

In whatever manner GNA addresses this concern, likely fewer readers will look at the revised copy than the original reading of it. Fewer still will probably see the online version and even fewer will see or read an editorial apology. What has happened with the article as originally printed is what I term a "cultural faux pas," and this letter is meant to convey an alert to the GNA on behalf of all future articles written for Georgia Nurses to be more culturally correct and appropriate.

I believe it would be very helpful to reprint this letter in the next publication as a direct voice of my sentiments to the Association members on this matter. I believe others may have felt likewise.

Thank you for your prior telephone call and personal conversation. I did appreciate your time in speaking with me.

Yours truly,

Bernita Stanley Waller

Daughter of Inetz C. Stanley

Cc: Cheryl Freeman, President

Atlanta Chapter,

National Conclave of Grady Graduate Nurses, Inc.

Joyce Beeks, President

National Conclave of Grady Graduate Nurses, Inc.