

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITA SHIRLEY WATSON

Professor Shirley Watson was born September 19, 1907 in Brandon, Wisconsin, and later moved to Madison with her family. An early graduate of the School of Nursing, she was awarded her baccalaureate degree in 1931. This was just eight years after the program had become an integral part of the university. Later she continued her studies at the University of Chicago and Marquette University.

After a short time as a private duty nurse, (a typical model of practice at the time), she served as night supervisor and instructor at the Theda Clark Hospital School of Nursing in Neenah, Wisconsin. This was from the years 1931-36. She then returned to Madison and was appointed instructor in surgical nursing in the School of Nursing and supervisor of surgical wards of Wisconsin General Hospital, currently known as University Hospital and Clinics.

As faculty member of the School of Nursing, Ms. Shirley Watson was skilled in surgical nursing and an expert in cancer nursing at a time in history when the diagnosis of cancer was considered an inevitable death.

In 1943, she joined the United States Army Nurse Corps and served with the 44th General Hospital (the Wisconsin General Hospital unit). She contracted tuberculosis during this time and was subsequently treated at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver. Upon her recovery she returned to her former position in the School of Nursing. For a number of years she held a supervisory position in University Hospital and Clinics as well as her faculty position.

As a lead faculty member in the School of Nursing, Professor Watson made many contributions to the school and to the nursing profession. She was lead faculty in medical surgical nursing and served as an academic advisor for many years. She conducted cancer nursing workshops for the Wisconsin Division of the American Cancer Society. She contributed to the nursing literature and wrote the first published history of the School of Nursing, (*The Trained Nurse and Hospital Review*, June 1949). She was tenured at the assistant professor rank in 1962. She retired as an assistant professor in 1968, and upon the recommendation of the faculty was granted emeritus status by the Board of Regents.

Students were in awe of her professionalism and highly respected her nursing care abilities. She was considered to be a model of professionalism. She was a resident of the Meriter Retirement Center in the latter years of her life. She died in Madison on February 7, 2002.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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