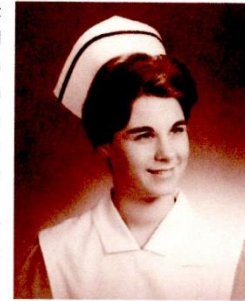


MARILYN GRAY BAADER

Health care, education and environment are the cornerstones of a life of service in both Marilyn Gray Baader's private and professional pathways. These themes are for her intrinsic without specific point of references. She just 'always knew' that she wanted to help people and that nursing was the obvious way to do that. Born to Eva and Ken Gray in Greece, NY, near Rochester, Marilyn was the second of six children. While her father worked at Kodak as a quality control engineer, the family lived on a 50-acre farm with 10 acres of peach trees and 4 acres of red raspberries plus the capacity to board horses. The children grew up participating in the operation of the farm, with Marilyn having less than fond memories of picking raspberries, but developing a work ethic that they all carried through life. Marilyn, as the second oldest, was also a second mother to her younger siblings, reflecting and developing her care-giving nature.

Both her parents had roots in England. Her mother came to North America at the age of 13 and to the United States via Canada around the end of WWI when such immigrants were granted citizenship more easily. Considering the sequence of two World Wars with the depression in between, Marilyn's parents brought a set of family values to their lives that shaped lives of the children. In addition to the work ethic, there was a conviction that a family should be able to grow their own food. Thus, gardening was an essential life skill, not a supplementary past time. Family members were expected and took satisfaction in taking care of and helping each other. Immigrating at that time, however, meant that Marilyn's mother was unable to finish her own education. Thus, she was determined that all her children would graduate from college, which they did, with two sets of three being in college at the same time for several years. Marilyn's own education reflects trends in education at the time. To access kindergarten, which was not available in her home district, she went outside her the local district. For elementary grades she attended the local school which, at that time, consisted of two rooms with grades 1-3 in one room and 4-6 in the other. Elmgrove School was centralized into Spencerport School system when Marilyn was in the 6th grade. She attended and graduated from this system. With the nature of some of the leading technical industries in the area at that time, Rochester area schools were considered some of the best in the country. While most of her aunts and uncles were teachers, Marilyn gravitated to nursing. She joined the nursing club at the high school and worked as a candy striper and had a summer job at Rochester General Hospital. Marilyn also spent a summer as an exchange student in Germany in 1958. While there, she sensed, as an after effect of that nation's recent history, a leeringness of foreigners. She and her husband visited that area years later. It is worth noting that in that era, becoming a nurse, a teacher, or a secretary were the three most likely career paths for women. Girls were unlikely to think of executive roles in business or hospital administration as a career, yet with experience and performance, women like Marilyn found their own pathway to those careers. Marilyn pursued her first official nurses training at Keuka College on the northwest side Keuka Lake, graduating in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. She shared an apartment in Nedrow while working at Community General Hospital in Syracuse, then just being developed. Shortly after that, she enrolled in a nursing program at Syracuse University. SU did not offer an advanced degree in nursing, so she received a Masters' Degree in Education with a minor in Nursing. She



returned to Community General Hospital to work on a long-term care project, followed by a stint as an instructor in the nursing program with Keuka College. In that role, Marilyn regularly traveled to sites from Ithaca to Canandaigua overseeing student nurses in practicums. After two years, however, she realized that she missed nursing in hospital settings. She became the Assistant Director of Nursing in Syracuse at what was then the Crouse-Irving Syracuse Memorial Hospital. In time, she became the Vice President of Professional Services and eventually, Executive Vice-President of the hospital, which was, in reality, the operational director of the entire facility. During this time, Marilyn, ever committed to growth and education, backtracked to take accounting courses and get an associate degree at Cayuga Community College, knowing she needed those skills to manage the parts of the executive roles for which she had not been trained.



In the meantime, Marilyn met her husband of 46 years, John Baader, whom she married in 1967. They met through an aunt and uncle, Arcola and Harold Boomer, who lived in Union Springs where John worked as a high school guidance counselor. Harold was an Industrial Arts teacher at Union Springs. Marilyn considers her Aunt Arcola one of her role models. Arcola did not have children of her own. She was a sort of 'other-mother' to her nieces and nephews, helping them out when they needed it, especially in educational pursuits. Ultimately, Marilyn plays a similar role with her own numerous nieces and nephews. John and Marilyn built their primary home on the outskirts of the village of Cayuga and a second summer home on Cayuga Lake at Allen's Point, where she now resides full time. John, a craftsman, built both homes himself, from the framing to the kitchen cabinets. He rose to become the School Superintendent for Union Springs. Marilyn left her hospital work when John became ill and passed away in 2012.

Not one to sit still, Marilyn has followed, or chased, her three passions of education, nursing, and environment, into retirement. The word retirement implies a level of relative inactivity, but not for one with Marilyn's work ethic and passion. She serves numerous organizational boards in the area, most related to nursing and medical care. Her educational interests continue through membership of the Board of Trustees at Keuka College, where she is now a Trustee Emeriti. Involvement in the Frontenac Historical Society might be part of her educational focus, but she also fills an important role in the business operations of that organization. She delivers Meals on Wheels twice a week. For hobbies, she expresses her environmental passion through gardening. Her siblings and their offspring live all over the country so when she can, she travels and stays connected in other ways when she can't travel. She reads and walks for her own intellectual and physical health.

When asked about role models, Marilyn adds, in addition to her Aunt Arcola, Clara Barton (and all nurses) for her contribution to the practice of medicine. It was a nurse who brought basic sanitary practices to the field—literally, the battlefield, saving hundreds of lives. Sadly, the women in medicine often do not get credit for their contributions. As in any war era, battlefield medicine has huge implications for health treatment in the world at large. Marilyn's attachment to such a role model is rooted in the principle of helping people. Every question about why she did what she did or made the choices she made is answered by that simple principle: Helping People, for which she would like to be known and remembered.