

By: Representative Bentley

## HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER LORETTA FORD, COFOUNDER OF THE FIRST  
ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND "MOTHER"  
OF THE NURSE PRACTITIONER FIELD.

### Subtitle

TO REMEMBER LORETTA FORD, COFOUNDER OF  
THE FIRST ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOR NURSE  
PRACTITIONERS AND "MOTHER" OF THE NURSE  
PRACTITIONER FIELD.

WHEREAS, Loretta Cecilia (Pfingstel) Ford, cofounder of the first academic program for nurse practitioners and the first Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, died January 22, 2025, at the age of one hundred four (104); and

WHEREAS, Loretta Ford was born December 28, 1920, in New York City, New York, and was raised in the Haskell section of Wanaque, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Ford graduated from Butler High School in Butler, New Jersey, in 1937 and then worked at Middlesex General Hospital, known today as the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, as a nurse's aid; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Ford then entered nursing school and obtained her nursing diploma in 1941; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, after her fiancé was killed in World War II, Loretta



Ford joined what was then known as the United States Army Air Forces, now the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, through the G.I. Bill, Loretta Ford then attended the University of Colorado where in 1949 she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a Public Health Nursing certificate; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Ford was mentored by influential figures in public health and nursing during her time at the University of Colorado, and in 1951 she earned a Master of Public Health degree from the university and became the director of nursing at the Boulder City-County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Ford married William Ford in 1947, and they had a daughter in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Ford earned a Doctorate in Education from the University of Colorado in 1961, and she was already an assistant professor at the University of Colorado School of Nursing in Denver, earning a full professorship in 1965; and

WHEREAS, after noticing gaps in healthcare that she felt could be addressed by specially trained nurses, and working in tandem with pediatrician Dr. Henry Silver, Loretta Ford started the pediatric nurse practitioner program at the University of Colorado in 1965, and this was the first academic program for nurse practitioners in United States history; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Loretta Ford became founding dean of the University of Rochester School of Nursing in New York, where she developed the holistic Unification Model of Nursing and continued to work to overcome prejudice regarding the abilities of nurses; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Ford received numerous awards and recognitions throughout her lifetime, including awards from the American Public Health Association, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Nursing, and she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives remember Loretta Ford, cofounder of the first academic program for nurse practitioners and the "mother" of the nurse practitioner field.