**Dr. Marilyn “Dee” Ray**

**Brief Bio**

Dr. Ray was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and is from a large extended family of the late Arthur and Elvera Ray. She came seeking adventure with three nursing friends to Los Angeles, California in 1958 after graduating from St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing. She practiced nursing at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles and Hoag Memorial Hospital in Costa Mesa in Maternal-Child Nursing, ICUs and Emergency Departments. In 1963, she moved to Colorado and practiced nursing in ICU at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs and the University Hospital in Denver. She completed a BSN in 1968 and her MS in 1969 at the University of Colorado, School of Nursing under the mentorship of the late Maxine Berlinger and the late Dr. Madeleine Leininger. She became a citizen of the United States (now holding dual citizenship in the United States and Canada) and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force (USAF) in 1967. She attended flight school at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine in Texas, served as a flight nurse during the Viet Nam conflict and followed up within the USAF Nurse Corps with many leadership and command assignments in education, administration, and aerospace nursing research and space education. She completed her service in aerospace nursing research and was the first and only nurse to be invited to travel to the Soviet Union (now Russia) for participation with members of the Russian Space Agency at Star City with engineers, scientists, and physicians of the Aerospace Medical Association. Dr. Ray retired with rank of full Colonel.

In 1969, Dr. Ray began her teaching career at the University of California San Francisco and then the University of San Francisco. She returned to Canada in 1973 and began teaching at McMaster University, School of Nursing in the family practice primary care program educating the first nurse practitioner cohorts in Canada. While there, she was encouraged to apply to the Department of Anthropology and complete an MA in Cultural Anthropology with a research focus on the contemporary culture of nursing and complex hospital systems. She returned to the United States in 1977 to participate with Dr. Leininger as one of the first transcultural PhD nursing students in the new PhD program at the University of Utah, College of Nursing. While in Utah, she met her future husband, James L. Droesbeke, an accountant living in Denver.

Dr. Ray continued her teaching career at Florida Atlantic University as a Professor in the Christine E/ Lynn College of Nursing. She joined the faculty in 1989 and continues to serve in the role of Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Ray was privileged to be amongst caring scholars, Leininger, Watson, Bevis, Gaut, Glittenberg, and Murray after declaration by Dr. Leininger that caring was the “essence of nursing” at the first conference on caring in nursing at the University of Utah in 1978. Jean Watson presented her transpersonal caring theory, Leininger on her transcultural nursing views, and finally, the two PhD students, Dr. Ray and the late Dr. Dolores Gaut presented their philosophies of caring. She was part of the group of nurses who founded the philosophy and science of caring in nursing, now celebrating almost 50 years of scholarship in caring science and art.

In 1981, Dr. Ray completed her dissertation and discovered the Theory of Bureaucratic Caring from researching the meaning of caring within the complex hospital organizational culture. The theory is recognized as critical to modern nursing and used worldwide in institutional health care and military cultures.

In 2017, her Theory of Bureaucratic Caring was selected by Lieutenant General Dorothy Hogg, the Surgeon General of the United States Air Force and her executive staff as the cornerstone and structural framework for the United States Air Force Nurse Corps (USAF NC), for the development of the Person-Centered Professional Practice Model (PC2P).

Dr. Ray will present on the evolution of her theory on the IAHC Journal Club session!

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