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Presidential Profile: Sandra (Randleman) Wilder

By: **Dr. Phoebe Pollitt**

Abstract

A profile of former President of NCNA, Sandra (Randleman) Wilder, a "Healthcare Hero of East Winston," awarded by the WSSU School of Health Sciences.

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Presidential Profile: Sandra (Randleman) Wilder

By NCNA Member Dr. Phoebe Pollitt, RN; Nursing History Council Vice Chair

Sandra (Randleman) Wilder was born on July 27, 1945, to Abraham and Mozelle Wilder in Winston-Salem. Her leadership abilities and multiple talents were evident from an early age. An article from the October 21, 1962, *Winston-Salem Journal* titled "Sandra Wilder honored – Anderson crowned queen" details her numerous achievements as a high school student. In addition to being crowned "Miss Anderson High School" for the 1962-63 school year, she was inducted into the National Honor Society, served as vice-president of the drama club, secretary of the Health Careers Club and the New Homemakers of America, and co-editor of the yearbook.

Becoming a nurse and early career

Wilder graduated first in her class with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Winston-Salem State University in 1967 and was inducted into the Alpha Kappa Mu honor society. She went to work at the recently racially desegregated Forsythe Memorial Hospital, became a clinical specialist in acute dialysis, and later taught in the hospital's diploma school of nursing. In addition to her work, she married Jasper Randleman in 1970, had her daughter Meisha in 1974 and did some modelling for local dress shops. She was involved in numerous community and church activities including volunteering for the local arts council, the WSSU alumni association and hospice.

In 1987, she earned an MSN in nursing administration from UNC-G where she was on the Dean's List and inducted into Sigma Theta Tau. Wilder was very active in NCNA, chairing numerous committees, serving as a delegate to the ANA House of Delegates, being President of District 3, acting as liaison between the NCNA and the NC Association of Nursing Students, serving on the NCNA Board of Directors, and as secretary of the North Carolina Foundation for Nursing. In the late 1980s, Wilder opened her own business, *Randleman and Associates*, specializing in providing speaking engagements and workshops on professional development and financial planning. Around this time, she also became a financial analyst for the New York Life Insurance Company.

Saving the WSSU Nursing Program

In the late 1980s, Wilder's alma mater, WSSU School of Nursing, was threatened with closure of the undergraduate program due to poor passing rates on the NCLEX. Wilder, who was then the first president of the WSSU Nursing Alumni Organization, spearheaded a successful petition drive and letter writing campaign to save the program. She worked with administrators of the university and the nursing school to reorganize the curriculum and find cost saving measures. In 2019, Wilder was awarded a

“Healthcare Hero of East Winston” award by the WSSU School of Health Sciences in recognition of her work in saving WSSU’s nursing program in 1989.

President of the NCNA

Wilder served as President of NCNA for the 1994-1995 biennium. During her tenure, declining membership in NCNA was a major problem. The Board of NCNA had taken the position that the BSN become the entry level of education for Registered Nursing. This action caused some members to drop out and non-members to continue to avoid the organization. Of course, other nurses were adamantly in favor of this position. Wilder began the TIPS program (Tell it to the President – See results) to improve dialogue between leadership and members of the NCNA. She traveled over 9,000 miles and held “countless hours of speaking engagements” (Presidents Message Dec. 1995) to members and non-members about the value of belonging to NCNA.

Post Presidency

Wilder remained very active in NCNA for many years after her term as President was over. She represented NCNA at ANA conventions, served on several committees, and participated in numerous events, including Nurses Day at the Legislature. In 1998 she was appointed to the Forsythe County Board of Health and served for six years. Wilder continued her public speaking and volunteer activities well into retirement. Her contributions to her alma mater, her professional association, and the health of all people inspire us to continue her work.

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