**Norma Small PhD, RN – The 2003 HMA Wilkerson- Droege Award Recipient…**

Norma heard about Parish Nursing and knew that this was her calling after serving 22 years in the Army Nurse Corps. She attended the second Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium and returned the following year with her pastor, Dr. Abigail Rian Evans. She presented the program which Dr. Evans had founded, the Health Ministries of Washington, DC. It was a multi-professional, multidenominational, agency/organization to promote health and wholeness through churches.

It was after this Symposium in 1989 that discussions began that culminated in the founding of the Health Ministries Association (HMA). Norma was one of the charter members. Since then she held many leadership and advisory positions in HMA and represented HMA at national meetings and organizations. Norma was steadfast in both her support to and belief in HMA, seeing it through its growth and development to be a mature organization that is recognized as a leader in the Faith-Health Movement. She also used one of her many talents to serve as the HMA

Historian/Archivist for many years.

As the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at the Georgetown University School of Nursing, Norma developed the first graduate program in Parish Nursing. This enabled her to maintain her Parish Nursing practice while mentoring graduate students. In 1998 she was instrumental in having Parish Nursing designated as a Nursing Specialty by the American Nurses Association and HMA designated as its professional organization which led to the acceptance and publication of HMA’s, *Scope and Standards of Parish Nursing Practice*, in 1998!

Following her retirement from Georgetown University she moved to Johnstown, PA and

provided leadership to the Southwest PA Chapter of HMA which hosted HMA’s 1998

Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. She also helped with the development of the PA Laurel Mountains

Chapter of HMA. Norma continued to be active as a consultant in health ministry both as an

educator as well as speaking nationwide on Health Ministries and Faith Community Nursing.

Norma was respected, admired and loved by all who knew her. Sadly, HMA and the entire faith-health movement lost this pioneering, visionary and faithful servant of God to cancer in July, 2015.