

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025

HMR 1007

4  
5 By: Representative Bentley

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8 **HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

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

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14 **Subtitle**

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

19  
20 WHEREAS, Loretta Cecilia (Pfingstel) Ford, cofounder of the first  
21 academic program for nurse practitioners and the first Advanced Practice  
22 Registered Nurse, died January 22, 2025, at the age of one hundred four  
23 (104); and

24  
25 WHEREAS, Loretta Ford was born December 28, 1920, in New York City, New  
26 York, and was raised in the Haskell section of Wanaque, New Jersey; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, Loretta Ford graduated from Butler High School in Butler, New  
29 Jersey, in 1937 and then worked at Middlesex General Hospital, known today as  
30 the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, as  
31 a nurse's aid; and

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

26  
27 WHEREAS, in 1972, Loretta Ford became founding dean of the University  
28 of Rochester School of Nursing in New York, where she developed the holistic  
29 Unification Model of Nursing and continued to work to overcome prejudice  
30 regarding the abilities of nurses; and

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

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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.