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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA's Longtime CEO Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Announces Her Retirement from Full-Time Employment

Stierle to Manage a Smooth Transition

SILVER SPRING, MD – After a long, accomplished tenure of more than eight years as Chief Executive Officer at the American Nurses Association (ANA), The Honorable Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, is announcing her retirement. Since April 1, 2000 Stierle has served in this top role developing and implementing programs designed to meet the vision and goals of the association and leading and managing the association's national headquarters, its operations and its staff of nearly 200 individuals. Stierle also serves as CEO of the American Nurses Foundation.

As ANA's CEO, Stierle has provided the corporate continuity in the ANA enterprise between the association and its three subsidiaries, the American Nurses Foundation, the American Academy of Nursing, and the American Nurses Credentialing Center as well as its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. Stierle joined the ANA staff on March 13, 2000 as Deputy Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer and was quickly named the association's CEO.

Stierle, a long-time member of the Texas Nurses Association until February 2000 when she transferred her membership to the Maryland Nurses Association, was instrumental in the creation of ANA's newest constituency for nurses in the uniformed services, the Federal Nurses Association (FedNA).

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This constituency was created by bylaws changes passed in 1999 by the ANA House of Delegates. On March 23, 2000, the ANA board of directors accepted FedNA as the 54th constituent member.

Prior to her distinguished career at ANA, Stierle retired as a Brigadier General in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps where she served as the twelfth Chief of the Nurse Corps. Stierle began her military career in 1970 as a staff nurse in intensive care. During her career she held various clinical and management positions including chief nursing officer at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, the Air Force's largest medical center with 1,000 beds and at the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing Hospital, Royal Air Force in Lakenheath, England. In addition, Stierle has both regional and national headquarters corporate experience. From 1995 until her retirement from the military on February 1, 2000, Stierle was assigned to Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC as director, medical readiness and Chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps. In these key roles Stierle shared responsibilities for the development of health care policy in support of 46,000 medical personnel, 80 medical treatment facilities and oversight of a \$4.5B budget. She developed policies affecting 19,000 nursing personnel in active and reserve components and was responsible for training, organizing, and equipping all Air Force medics.

“I planned to semi-retire and only work part-time when I completed my almost 30 years of service in the United States Air Force. But when ANA called me very shortly thereafter and asked me to consider full-time employment, I was honored. At that time, I had been an ANA member for over 30 years. Despite my commitment to my family and myself that I would not work full-time after retirement from the military, I accepted this once-in-a-life-time opportunity because I knew it would allow me to continue to be involved with my two overarching passions outside of my family - my country and my profession. I have been very fortunate that both of my full-time career choices have completely fulfilled my professional goals,” said Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, NEA-BC.

“Linda’s effective leadership has made ANA not only a thriving, financially viable organization poised for continued growth, but one that is more stable than anytime in its long history. Linda is a visionary nurse leader responsible for developing and implementing ANA’s cutting-edge programs responsive to the needs of the individual nurse. These include the National Data Base of Nursing Quality Indicators program (NDNQI), expanding the number of ANA's organizational affiliates to 23 national nursing specialty organizations representing 330,000 members, and fully establishing ANA as the nursing organization convening the profession around systemic issues. ANA has addressed a variety of systemic issues through the following initiatives and activities: Nursing's Agenda for the Future, the Economic Value of Nursing, the Coalition for Patient's Rights, the APRN Consensus Model, the Safe Staffing Saves Lives Campaign, ANA's work on genetics, and by creating and implementing ANA’s Healthcare Policy Conference. Linda's strategic vision, fortitude and irrefutable commitment to the nursing profession have had a profound impact not only on ANA but for the entire nursing profession and the public that we serve,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

“As has been my life-long practice, I started at ANA with the ideal endpoint in mind. I anticipated that if ANA was a good fit, then the maximum number of years that I would continue to work full-time would be my sixtieth birthday. I am delighted that it certainly worked out that way. In August of 2008, I turned 60. I have reflected on the future, and now seems the right time for a leadership transition for ANA as well as for a transition for me, personally. Working together over these many years with the dedicated ANA staff, volunteers, and elected leaders, I believe we can all have a strong sense of pride for our accomplishments in advancing the nursing profession and in improving the healthcare of the residents of this great country of ours,” said Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, NEA-BC.

In 2002, President Bush appointed Stierle to a five-year term on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences where she served as the Vice Chair of the Board. She is also a member of the consumer advisory board of the American Academy of Family Physicians. In addition to her membership in ANA and the Maryland Nurses Association, she is also a member of the Tau Theta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the Society of Air Force Nurses, and the American Society of Association Executives.

Stierle earned a master's of science in nursing from the University of California, San Francisco, and a bachelors of science in nursing from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas, and a diploma in nursing from Spartanburg General Hospital in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Stierle's military awards include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, and National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.