

## Foundation names 2018 Nurse of the Year

**“Y**ears of happiness reinventing myself.” That’s how Corinne Schlom, RN, sums up her nursing career—and how it has enriched her life.

Schlom was named the American Nurses Foundation’s Honor a Nurse 2018 Nurse of the Year, which recognizes extraordinary nurses while giving back to the profession. And at age 92, recently retired from her part-time position at a rehabilitation center in Glenview, Illinois, Schlom has certainly earned that title.

Her son Charles Schlom, a retired lieutenant colonel, donated to the Foundation in honor of his mother last year; he then presented the Honor a Nurse certificate at her birthday party. It was a fitting tribute for Corinne, who said that it was “always an honor to be a nurse, providing care for others.”

A first-generation American born to Italian immigrants, Schlom entered the Cadet Nursing Program in 1944, as part of the Bolton Act that called up nurses for national service during World War II, and attended St. Mary’s Nursing School in La Salle, Illinois. The war ended while she was still in training, but in 1947 Schlom was assigned to serve at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, taking care of the wounded and helping to rehabilitate many of the young soldiers who were permanently disabled.

Schlom then entered civilian nursing as a surgical nurse, working for neurosurgeon Loyal Edward Davis, MD, at Northwestern Medical. That’s where she realized her love for surgery and went on to work for another neurosurgeon for more than 12 years until his retirement.

After taking several years to stay home to care for her young children, Schlom returned to work on weekends; she recognized the need for quality long-term care and felt that she could add value. “The satisfaction of getting people through the day is fulfilling,”



Charles Schlom presented the Honor a Nurse Certificate to his mother, Corinne.



Corinne Schlom (pictured right), providing care to a wounded soldier.

Schlom said. Proud of his mother, Charles was inspired by her choice to work at a time when most of his high school friends’ mothers did not work outside of the home. Besides, having a mother who was a nurse made getting sick easier! Nursing runs in the family. Corinne’s niece and daughter-in-law are also RNs.

A true lifelong learner, Schlom went back to school for her bachelor’s degree from the University of St. Francis, graduating in 1987. And when computers began to be used in healthcare, she quickly learned how to use the new technology to develop psychotropic drug plans in her facility.

Schlom’s dedication to the military continued throughout her life. She rolled bandages in the 1960s to send to Vietnam. When Charles was stationed in Afghanistan, she coordinated a jeep-load of medical supplies to be shipped over to her son’s base. When the United States Cadet Nurse Corp Equity Act of 2011 formally pronounced his mother a WW II veteran, Charles promptly brought her to visit the local VA. “She was greeted like a rock star,” Charles said.

“The staff and board of the American Nurses Foundation are thrilled to recognize Corinne Schlom. We are so pleased to highlight Corinne and her devotion to nursing,” said American Nurses Foundation Chair Tim Porter-O’Grady, DM, EdD, APRN, FAAN. “We are truly inspired by her life story.”

The Foundation’s Honor a Nurse program recognizes nurses’ extraordinary contributions to healthcare. The program enables colleagues, friends, family, and others to honor a nurse or a group of nurses who have made a positive difference, while supporting the profession philanthropically. The funds raised support nursing research, scholarships, and programs to improve nurses’ lives and the nursing profession. Nurses who have been honored qualify for the Honor a Nurse - Nurse of the Year award. To honor a nurse, visit [givetonursing.org/honoranurse](http://givetonursing.org/honoranurse). Celebrate National Nurses Week (May 6-12) by recognizing the nurses you know.