American Academy of Nursing Designates Five Nurse Leaders as Living Legends

The Academy Will Present its Highest Honor at Annual Policy Conference in October Washington, DC (July 30, 2019)—The American Academy of Nursing will officially designate five exceptional leaders as Living Legends at the Academy’s Transforming Health, Driving Policy conference in Washington, DC on October 24, 2019. Change agents and champions, these individuals have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to transforming health care. Using their nursing knowledge, they have spearheaded academic, practice, policy, and social change with extraordinary impact. “The leaders selected this year’s class of Living Legends are highly-acclaimed, long-time Fellows whose accomplishments to health and wellness are profound and sustained,” said Academy President Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FACHE, FAAN. “The Academy is delighted to recognize these incredible nurses as Living Legends.

Their legacies will be felt and celebrated at the Academy, as well as, by the public, for many years to come.” Countless lives, families, communities, and systems have improved as a direct result of the tenacity, expertise, and passion demonstrated by the following leaders honored as the 2019 Academy Living Legends.

American Academy of Nursing 2019 Living Legends: Linda Schwartz, Dr PhD, RN, FAAN, a Veteran of United States Air Force Nurse Corps, has tirelessly dedicated her life to improving the health of veterans. Dr. Schwartz has testified on behalf of veterans over 35 times before Congress and has served as an expert on readjustment after combat, equality for women, homelessness, and mental health care to five Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretaries. Unanimously confirmed as VA Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the Veteran Health Administration (VHA), Dr. Schwartz oversaw the groundbreaking ruling to allow full scope of practice authority to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses across all VHA facilities. Currently, she serves as a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee’s Women Veterans Task Force.

I wanted to share this news with SAFN because many of you helped me after I was injured in C141 RD. The road has been a great adventure but solidly planted in my values and experiences as an Air Force Nurse.