

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

Norma Small heard about Parish Nursing and knew that this was her calling after 22 years in the Army Nurse Corps. She attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium and returned the following year with her pastor, Dr. Abigail Rian Evans, to present the program which Dr. Evans had founded, Health Ministries of the Washington, DC, a multi-professional, multi-denominational, agency/organization to promote health and wholeness through churches. It was after this Symposium in 1989 that discussions began culminating in the founding of the Health Ministries Association (HMA). Norma was one of the charter members. Since then she has held many leadership and advisory positions in HMA and represented HMA at national meetings and organizations. Norma has seen HMA through its growth and development to be a mature organization that is recognized as a leader in the Faith-Health Movement.

As the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at the Georgetown University School of Nursing she developed the first graduate program in Parish Nursing, which 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.

Today, Norma resides in Johnstown where she remains active as a consultant in health ministry, teaching and speaking nationwide on Health Ministries and Parish Nursing and serves as Historian/Archivist for HMA.