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**Long Time Board Member Remembers VNAB in Estate Plan**

*Ruth Farrisey, RN, leaves bequests generous gift*

Ruth M. Farrisey, RN, former board member of the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston and longtime nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital died at the age of 90 years old in September of 2007 at an assisted living facility in Framingham, MA. Miss Farrisey remembered the VNA of Boston with a generous gift from her estate in the amount of \$120,000.

Miss Farrisey was a beloved and respected nursing pioneer. She was a 1938 graduate of the MGH School of Nursing, a 1950 graduate of Simmons College and a 1953 graduate of the Harvard School of Public Health. She began her 34-year career at the MGH in 1950 as a public health liaison. Eventually, she became the executive officer of the MGH and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Out-Patient Departments. In 1975, she was named associate director of Nursing in Ambulatory Care, a post she held until retiring in 1984.

Widely considered a nursing legend, Farrisey helped establish the nurse practitioner movement at the MGH — the second in the country. In 1961, Farrisey helped reorganize the nursing practice in the MGH Out-Patient Department so that nurses could provide comprehensive care to patients with chronic diseases. This was among the first nurse practitioner clinics within an outpatient practice, initiating a trend toward collaborative team care and an independent role for nurses in the ambulatory care setting. She was also instrumental in launching the MGH health care clinics long before community-based health care was the norm.

Some of the largest and most generous gifts to a charity are made through a donor's estate plan. Please let us know if you have included the VNA of Boston in your estate plan, so that we can acknowledge your generosity by including you with others like Miss Farrisey in our Legacy Society. The Legacy Society is a group of committed individuals who have remembered the VNA of Boston in their estate plan.

If you are interested in including the VNA of Boston in your estate plan, please contact Jeffrey Smith, Vice President of Development & Communications at 617-886-6464 or a [jsmith@vnab.org](mailto:jsmith@vnab.org).

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The Visiting Nurse Association of Boston & Affiliates provides home healthcare through the VNA of Boston, private pay services through VNA Private Care, and end-of-life support through VNA Hospice Care. We coordinate superior care across the continuum – for all ages, healthcare needs, and income levels – so that our patients and their families throughout Greater Boston have peace of mind and, most importantly, can live independently at home. Learn more about the VNA of Boston on the web at [www.bostonvna.org](http://www.bostonvna.org).