



NEWS RELEASE

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American College of Nurse-Midwives Elects New Officers *Pennsylvania Midwife Elected as President*

SILVER SPRING, MD – Eunice “Kitty” Ernst, CNM, MPH, DSc (hon), FACNM of Perkiomenville, Penn. was elected as President of the **American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)**.

Ernst is a past president of ACNM (1961-1963) and a pioneer in nurse-midwifery. She plans to strengthen ACNM membership with a focus on educating nurse-midwifery students on the realities of today's health care system. “It is my experience that when we educate nurse-midwives about the world they will enter, they go forth and establish services and work within the system to overcome state and local barriers,” Ernst says. “As the demand for midwifery care increases, the education programs must grow to meet the need. As education programs grow, the need for clinical training sites becomes the most important priority.”

Kitty Ernst began her career as a nurse-midwife on horseback at the legendary Frontier Nursing Service in the mountains of Kentucky. A graduate of Hunter College and Columbia University School of Public Health in New York, she served on the home birth service of Maternity Center Association (now Childbirth Connection) and as director of the Columbia University Nurse-Midwifery Education Program. As a consultant for Maternity Center Association and in collaboration with obstetrician John Franklin, Ernst founded the family centered maternity care nurse-midwifery program at the Salvation Army's Booth Maternity Center in Philadelphia. This program conclusively demonstrated that middle class women would seek the care of the nurse-midwife obstetrician team. At Booth, she established and directed the midwifery refresher program, which prepared foreign trained nurse-midwives to become eligible for the ACNM national certifying exam for practice in the U.S.

Ernst was founding director of the American Association of Birth Centers. Most recently she was the founding director of the first fully distance education program for nurse-midwives. She continues to serve on the faculty of the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing as the Mary Breckinridge Chair of Midwifery and Family Nursing.

Ernst is married and lives in Perkiomenville next door to her grandchildren, who she says keep her focused on what is important in life.

Ernst will be inducted to her three-year term at the ACNM 52nd Annual Meeting in Chicago, May 25-31, 2007.

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For more information or to arrange an interview with Eunice “Kitty” Ernst, please contact Rebecca Jacob, ACNM Communications Manager at 240-485-1822 or via email at rjacob@acnm.org.

With roots dating to 1929, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is the oldest women's health care association in the U.S. ACNM's mission is to promote the health and well-being of women and infants within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Midwives believe every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity and cultural variations. More information about ACNM can be found at www.midwife.org.

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