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MURPHY RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS AT NMMC

TUPELO, Miss.—Charlotte Murphy, RN, recently retired from North Mississippi Medical Center after 33 years of service, much of that time spent mentoring nurse assistants and student nurses.

Murphy started her career at NMMC in March 1977 as an LPN in the intensive care nursery. She had started LPN school in Columbia in south Mississippi, but finished at what was then Itawamba Junior College after moving to this area. In the early years she also worked in labor and delivery, postpartum and the well-baby nursery. She continued to work full time while going back to IJC to earn her associate's degree in nursing.

Murphy became an RN in 1980. She worked with neuro patients, in the Emergency Department, and in LPN orientation before transferring to Home Health's Okolona branch in 1982. In 1988 she transferred to the hospital's Quality Assurance Department. She later became board certified in gerontology nursing.

In 1991 Murphy began training nursing assistants for NMMC, and after several years also began coordinating clinical rotations, preceptorships and placements with area schools of nursing—plus others from out-of-state as needed.

She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Mississippi University for Women in 1999. She was a member of Sigma Theta Tau-Zeta Rho Chapter nursing honor society and was also on the Dean's List.

When Murphy retired she was coordinator of Nursing Orientation, a role she served in for many years. During her tenure she developed an orientation process for advanced practice nurses (such as nurse practitioners), as well as orientation for medical students.

In October she joined the Itawamba Community College faculty and is helping associate degree nursing students in the simulation lab. She works two-and-one-half days each week and says she is glad to be back doing what she loves.

Something else she loves is her family, which includes her husband of 44 years, Dr. Marvin Murphy, who she started dating as a teenager in Columbus. "Marvin and I were in the same youth group and went to church together all our lives," she said. Over the years the two have served many pastorates—in Vernon and Fayette, Ala.; the Richmond community of Lee

County, south Mississippi, Batesville and Shannon—before retiring. He was called out of retirement two years ago to pastor Faith Baptist Church in Saltillo, where they continue to serve.

The Murphys have two sons—Wade (and wife Lisa) and Brad (and wife Trisha)—who live near them in Brewer. They have five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

While Murphy is thoroughly enjoying retirement and her new role on the ICC faculty, she truly misses NMMC's nurse educators, nurse assistants and her work with nursing students. "I love the people I worked closely with. I love them with all my heart," she said. "In all the places I've been, I know that God has placed me exactly where I needed to be."

Murphy enjoys playing the piano and reading, as well as camping anywhere with her husband. She also looks forward to visiting her sisters—Elaine Boling in San Francisco, Calif., and Marilyn Phagan in McKinney, Texas.

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Cutline: Charlotte Murphy (center), RN, is congratulated by her husband, Marvin, and sister-in-law, Dean Lindsey of Amory, during a reception in her honor Oct. 22.