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ANA-NY Members Piemonte and Zittel to Receive Awards from American Nurses Association

*ANA Awards recognize lifelong commitment
and outstanding contribution to nursing*

Albany, NY, May 12, 2014 – Robert V. Piemonte, EdD, RN, CAE, FAAN and Barbara Zittel, PhD, RN, both members of the American Nurses Association – New York (ANA-NY), are among the group of distinguished registered nurses who will be honored by the American Nurses Association during its national awards ceremony in June. Robert Piemonte is among five nurses who will be inducted into the ANA nursing Hall of Fame. Barbara Zittel will receive the *Barbara Thoman Curtis Award*, which recognizes contributions to nursing practice and health policy through political and legislative work.

“We are very proud that two of the 10 nurses receiving ANA’s highest honors this year are members of ANA-NY,” said Elizabeth "Betty" Mahoney, MS, EdD, RN, President of ANA-NY. “Bob and Barbara’s leadership and dedication to the profession of nursing exemplifies the ideals we are celebrating during National Nurses Week.”

Robert Piemonte’s nomination for induction into the ANA Hall of Fame notes his scholarship and dedication to developing nurse leaders. The nomination reads, in part: *Dr. Piemonte’s professional gifts to all nursing students will indeed have enduring value far beyond our lifetimes. . . . Dr. Piemonte was instrumental in ensuring that nursing students have a viable mentoring structure in which to learn about working within a professional nursing organization and about the immense power for good of organized professionals. Thanks in large part to Dr. Piemonte’s commitment and leadership, nursing students have an environment where they can set into motion the patient and community advocacy, legislative and political activism, and commitment to excellence that are the hallmarks of the nursing profession.* He joins four other 2014 Hall of Fame inductees for a total of 94 members since the nursing Hall of Fame was established in 1976.

Barbara Zittel served for 11 years as the Executive Secretary of the New York State Board for Nursing, and currently serves on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Campaign for Action. She has been a long-time advocate for improving nursing education and is a key proponent of the proposal to require new registered nurses to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing within ten years of initial licensure (BSN in 10). Her nomination for the *Barbara Thoman Curtis Award* reads, in part: *Dr. Zittel's commitment and her ability to promote collaborative action enabled her to lay the foundational cornerstone of a visionary initiative that, when enacted, will change the profession and enhance the welfare of the public in New York State in fundamental ways. Enactment of the bill will provide other states with an innovative and pragmatic model that has already gained national attention and support.*

For more information about ANA's 2014 national awards, including a full listing of honorees, find the ANA's media release online at:

<http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/MediaResources/PressReleases/ANA-Announces-National-Award-Recipients.pdf>

National Nurses Week is celebrated each year from May 6 to May 12. The 2014 Nurses Week theme, *Nurses: Leading the Way*, highlights registered nurses' critical role in advocating for their patients, the profession and continued improvement in the rapidly changing health care environment.

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ANA-New York is the professional association for registered nurses in the state. Launched in December 2012, ANA-New York is dedicated to promoting excellence in nursing practice, seeks to improve the quality of health care services, and promotes professional and leadership development of registered nurses. Learn more at <http://ana-newyork.org>