IN MEMORIAM

JO RETTA FAYE B AIRD

Joretta (Jody) Faye Baird was born February 11, 1945, in Pampa, Texas. She attended the Pampa public schools and was active in youth organizations in school and at the Central Baptist Church. On graduation from high school, she attended Oklahoma Baptist University in Tulsa and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 1968. During the following few years, Jody held various nursing positions in Chicago; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Oklahoma City before returning to Texas in 1972.

Jody began teaching maternity and public health nursing at Amarillo College in 1973 and enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing Outreach Program offered by The University of Texas System School of Nursing. She moved to Austin in 1976 to continue work on her master's degree and became a teaching assistant in the School of Nursing. She completed the master's degree in 1977 and began coursework toward a Ph.D. degree in nursing soon afterwards. In 1978 she suspended her coursework and was appointed Instructor of Maternity Nursing in the School of Nursing. She taught maternity nursing in a clinical practicum course for two years and taught core theoretical nursing courses to second semester junior nursing students for one year.

Jody was committed to improving maternity nursing practice. One form this commitment took was the authorship of four chapters in a monograph* intended for use by nurse clinicians. This resource, published

after her untimely death, is dedicated by the editor to her memory. Her authorship was undoubtedly a factor in its selection as *American Journal of Nursing* Maternal-Child Book of the Year in 1982.

Jody was actively involved in nursing activities and organizations. She was a member of the American Nurses' Association and the National League for Nursing and was past president of the Austin Area Nurses' Association of the College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (NAACOG). She taught Prepared Childbirth classes at Seton Medical Center. In May, 1981, she was installed as vice-president of the Epsilon Theta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the national honor society of nursing.

On June 1, 1981, Jody died of injuries suffered in a one-car accident a few miles outside of Abilene, Texas. She was enroute from Austin to Amarillo to visit relatives. Funeral services were held June 3, 1981, at the Central Baptist Church in Pampa, with burial at the Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa. A memorial service was held by her many friends in Austin on Friday, June 12, in the Chapel of the University Baptist Church. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Baird of Pampa and her identical twin sister, Mrs. M. K. (Loretta) Robinson, a niece, and a nephew, all of Amarillo, as well as other relatives.

A scholarship fund in Jody's memory was established at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing with contributions from relatives, colleagues, friends, and former students. Recipients of the scholarship award are undergraduate students who have expressed interest and ability in maternity nursing.

Joretta Faye Baird is remembered for her love of nursing, her happiness in clinical teaching, and her sincere interest in and support of undergraduate students. Her colleagues have missed her enthusiastic, yet gentle approach to life.
William H. Cunningham, President
The University of Texas at Austin

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Alice R. Redland (Chairman), Mitzi I. Dreher, and Anna L. Hans.