



## **National Black Nurses Association, Inc.**

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June 11, 2015

The Colorado Women's Hall of Fame  
P.O. Box 18849  
Denver Colorado 80218

Dear Madams:

I am writing on behalf of the National Black Nurses Association that Zipporah Parks Hammond be considered for the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame Nominations for 2016. I would like to highlight the impact Zipporah had and the lasting value her accomplishments and contributions have and will continue to make. She broke down barriers and had an impact with a lasting value for women, women of color and the state of Colorado that are worthy of a Hall of Fame inductee.

She shared the foresight, vision, and the power with other distinguished women of Colorado. Zipporah Hammond was the first black graduate from the University of Colorado Nursing School. After high school Zipporah enrolled at the University of Colorado at Boulder in the fall of 1941. The United States was about to enter World War II and would need nurses to support the war. Zipporah was the only African American in a class of 30 nursing students. She participated in The Cadet Nurse Corps when it was established in 1943 to help train nurses for the war effort.

In chronicling the important milestones by African-Americans and others in the battle for civil rights and equal treatment under the law, black nursing history is filled with the history of Black nurses and their struggle for equality in the profession. Zipporah should be saluted among the architects and pioneers in the struggle for equality in nursing and for their exceptional service, advocacy and determination of African Americans in the profession.

Zipporah Hammond subtly and gracefully broke down barriers. Through her actions and perseverance she made significant and enduring contributions that changed the perspective of what could be expected of minorities who choose to pursue nursing as a profession. After graduation, Zipporah worked as a surgical operating room nurse at Colorado General Hospital in Denver. A short time later she was recruited by John W. Chenault, MD, the chief of orthopedics at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama as his

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chief surgical nurse. She worked at the John Andrews Hospital-Infantile Paralysis Unit, the institute's polio clinic where she made an impact on the quality and compassionate care for those stricken with the devastation of polio.

The records will reveal a lifetime of commitment, dedication, and quiet visionary leadership for the nursing profession. Her lifetime achievements have made her a role model for professional colleagues and future generations of minority nursing students. Although, her nursing career ended after her health was impacted by tuberculosis, she continued in the medical field as a medical records librarian, followed by many years as a volunteer for the Denver Public Library, helping to identify, catalog and archive photographs and artifacts of Denverites, primarily African-Americans. She spent countless hours cataloging and organizing vast amounts of information pertaining to Denver's black history.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If further documentation is needed, I may be reached at [www.nbna.org](http://www.nbna.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deidre Walton".

Rev. Dr. Deidre Walton, JD, MSN, RN-PHN  
President and CEO  
National Black Nurses Association, Inc.