



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
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National Black Nurses Association Mourns the Passing of Distinguished Nurse Leader Dr. Faye Gary

Silver Spring, MD — The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) mourns the passing of **Dr. Faye Gary, EdD, MS, RN, FAAN**, a visionary nurse scholar, educator, and advocate whose lifelong dedication to advancing health equity and nursing leadership left a profound impact on the profession. Dr. Gary was a **lifetime member of the Cleveland Council of Black Nurses**, an affiliate chapter of NBNA, and a respected leader whose contributions shaped generations of nurses.

Dr. Gary passed away on March 2, 2026, at the age of 85. A nationally recognized expert in psychiatric and community health nursing, she served for more than two decades as the **Medical Mutual of Ohio Kent W. Clapp Chair and Professor of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing**, where she also held a secondary appointment in the Department of Psychiatry. Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Gary was widely known for her scholarship and advocacy addressing mental health disparities, child and adolescent psychiatric care, and community-based health interventions.

Born in Ocala, Florida, during the era of Jim Crow segregation, Dr. Gary's early experiences fueled a lifelong commitment to expanding educational opportunity, advancing health equity, and addressing systemic disparities in healthcare. Her work centered on improving access to mental health services and supporting vulnerable populations, particularly children and families in underserved communities.

Dr. Gary was also deeply committed to mentorship and workforce development, guiding and inspiring countless students, nurses, and healthcare professionals who now serve as leaders across academia, healthcare systems, and public health institutions throughout the country.

Her extraordinary contributions to nursing were recognized nationally. Dr. Gary was named a **Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing**, one of the profession's highest honors. She also served in numerous national leadership roles, including with the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Minority Fellowship Program**, where she helped advance initiatives to increase diversity in the mental health workforce and improve culturally responsive care.



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“A true nursing pioneer Dr. Faye Gary’s legacy is one of scholarship, service, and unwavering advocacy for communities often left at the margins of healthcare,” said **NBNA President, Dr. Sheldon D. Fields, PhD, RN, CRNP, FNP-BC, AACRN, FAANP, FNAP, FADLN, FAAN.**

“One of the first people to call and congratulate me when I took the position as NBNA’s Executive Director was Dr. Faye Gary. I will never forget her encouragement or how she pushed me to keep reaching higher. Even before she truly knew me, she believed in me,” said **NBNA Executive Director, Tonya Jackson, MSHA, BSN, RN.**

“Her sweet voice and steady support made her feel as though she was only a phone call away. Dr. Gary was the embodiment of encouragement, a true living legend, and she will be deeply missed.”

The National Black Nurses Association extends its deepest condolences to Dr. Gary’s family, colleagues, students, and members of the Cleveland Council of Black Nurses. Her remarkable legacy will continue to guide the nursing profession and the ongoing work to achieve health equity for all communities.

About the National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

Founded in 1971, the National Black Nurses Association represents more than 200,000 African American nurses, including over 100 chapters nationwide. NBNA is committed to improving the health of Black communities, increasing the number of Black nurses, and eliminating health disparities through advocacy, education, research, and leadership development.

For more information, visit www.nbna.org.