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National Black Nurses Association Honors the Life and Legacy of Co-Founder Margaret H. Jordan

SILVER SPRING, MD — The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) mourns the passing of Margaret H. Jordan, a co-founder of the association, pioneering nursing leader and longtime advocate for equity in health care. Ms. Jordan passed away on November 3, 2026, at the age of 83.

As NBNA prepares to commemorate its 55th Founders' Day on December 18, 2026, the association honors Ms. Jordan's remarkable life, professional achievements, and lasting contributions to the nursing profession.

In 1964, Ms. Jordan made history as the first Black student to graduate from Georgetown University's School of Nursing. Her achievement marked an important milestone in the university's history and helped pave the way for future generations of Black nursing students.

Ms. Jordan went on to build a distinguished career as a health care executive, community leader, and advocate for social change in health care. She served as president and CEO of Margaret Jordan Group, LLC, and held leadership positions on the boards of numerous national organizations, including the American Public Health Association and the American Hospital Association.

As a co-founder of the National Black Nurses Association, Ms. Jordan helped establish a foundation for an organization dedicated to advancing the professional development, leadership, and representation of Black nurses. Her commitment to strengthening the nursing profession and addressing inequities in health care reflected the values that continue to guide NBNA today.

Throughout her career, Ms. Jordan received numerous honors recognizing her leadership and service. She was a recipient of Georgetown University's School of Nursing Distinguished Alumnus Award and the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health's 1992 Alumna of the Year Award.

Ms. Jordan's dedication to nursing education continues through a scholarship established in her honor at Georgetown University. The scholarship is awarded annually to an African American nursing student from Washington, D.C., helping support the next generation of nursing professionals.

Her influence extended beyond the organizations she served. Through her leadership, advocacy, and commitment to educational access, Ms. Jordan helped create opportunities for Black nurses and encouraged greater representation in health care leadership.

As NBNA reflects on 55 years of service, the association recognizes Margaret H. Jordan as one of its co-founders whose contributions helped shape its history. Her legacy remains an important part of NBNA's continued commitment to nursing excellence, professional advancement, and health equity.

The National Black Nurses Association extends its heartfelt condolences to Ms. Jordan's family, friends, colleagues, and all those whose lives were touched by her leadership and service.

About the National Black Nurses Association
Founded in 1971, NBNA is a professional organization representing more than 308,000 African American registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, and nursing students through chapters nationwide. NBNA is dedicated to serving as the voice for Black nurses and diverse populations by promoting professional development, educational advancement, leadership, and health equity initiatives that improve the health of communities locally and globally.