

## COLORADO NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

### Karen O'Brien, BSN

- She holds a BSN from Wichita State University and an MS from Kansas. She is an ANCC-certified nurse practitioner and a clinical nurse specialist
- She served as the director of public health nursing at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, where she led the work of more than 500 Colorado public health nurses
- She she served as an ANA delegate for four years and received the CNA award for Outstanding Contribution at the State Level in 1999
- Left with permanent paralysis from polio in 1953, she was encouraged not to pursue a nursing career with its physical demands — and was denied entry into nursing school
- She feels her great contribution is living with her passion and dream to provide empowerment and caring to those that need to believe in themselves

