

**For Immediate Release**  
April 23, 2007

Contact: Robert Smith  
Director of Public Relations  
Visiting Nurse Association  
(214) 689-2609

## **SOME THINGS NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE FOR VNA NURSE**

*National Nurses Week is May 6 through May 12*

When Almeta Harris first donned her nurse's cap, "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" was the top-rated television show, "Oliver!" won the best picture Oscar, "Aquarius/Let The Sunshine In" by the Fifth Dimension was the year's best selling single, and Richard Nixon had begun his first term as President.

A lot has changed since 1969, but not Almeta's commitment to nursing and patient care. Almeta's first job as a licensed vocational nurse was at Parkland Hospital in Dallas with the medical/surgical unit. After completing her nursing degree at El Centro College, Almeta worked as a registered nurse at Southeast Methodist Hospital in Oak Cliff before joining the Visiting Nurse Association in 1978. She had never thought of being a home care nurse, but Almeta found the work challenging and rewarding.

Almeta's job titles at VNA have included admissions nurse, home health aide supervisor, and home care team manager. Today, Almeta is VNA's director of long-term care operations, which involves primary home care and the community-based alternatives program. VNA long-term care services include nursing, rehabilitative therapies, and Meals on Wheels.

The biggest change Almeta has seen in the profession since 1969 has been the expanding range of health services that nurses now provide in patients' homes, which previously could only be received in a hospital. "Home care has grown tremendously over the past four decades because of advances in medical technology and the level of expertise nurses possess," Almeta says.

What hasn't changed in nursing, Almeta states, is "Dedication to the job and compassion for those in need of care." "Some things don't change," she adds.

(more)



**Almeta Harris, R.N., with Roy Williams, Dallas Cowboys strong safety, at the Visiting Nurse Association's Meals on Wheels kitchen during the "Hometown Huddle" community service project involving team members and cheerleaders.**

###