

## **VNA NURSE HONORED BY TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR HOME CARE & HOSPICE**

Gary Springer, R.N., extended service unit supervisor with the Visiting Nurse Association's hospice program, was honored by the Texas Association for Home Care and Hospice (TAHC&H) at its annual convention held August 11, 2010 in Dallas.

Gary was presented with the Mary Jo Gabbert Nursing Achievement Award, bestowed on one Texas nurse each year by TAHC&H for distinguished service in the nursing arts.

Gary was among the first group of males admitted into the Baylor University nursing program in 1972 with a scholarship he received through the federal Nurse Training Act. In 1930, less than one percent of the registered nurses in the United States were men. Males comprise approximately nine percent of the profession in 2010.

Following graduation from Baylor in 1974, Gary was hired as a nurse at the Dallas VA Medical Center. Gary later worked for two years as the first hospice nurse employed by Visiting Nurse Association when it was chosen to participate in the national demonstration project to determine if hospice would become a Medicare-covered benefit. Gary rejoined VNA in 1991 as a home care and hospice nurse, and has been there ever since.

"I'm proud of the work I do at the Visiting Nurse Association, which has been rewarding on both a professional and personal level," Gary states.

VNA is proud, too, Gary.

**Gary Springer, R.N., extended service unit supervisor with the Visiting Nurse Association, and recipient of the 2010 Mary Jo Gabbert Nursing Achievement Award presented by the Texas Association for Home Care and Hospice.**

