

Letter:

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Honoring a pioneer

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How appropriate that as we celebrate National Hospice/Palliative Care month (November) we can also honor Florence Wald, who died Saturday in Connecticut at age 91.

Florence Schorske Wald, R.N., an internationally recognized expert in end-of-life care, brought modern hospice care to the United States. Florence paved the way for many of the local hospices we know today, including this area's largest nonprofit hospice organization, Hospice of Wake County.

Because of Florence's belief that everyone should be offered the same opportunity to die with dignity and compassion, hospices around the country are especially grateful for her awareness of end-of-life issues, commitment to dying patients and their families, and dedication to expanding the hospice model.

Because of Florence and other early pioneers in hospice, physicians, patients and families have a greater awareness of the benefits of compassionate end-of-life care.

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