



2010 TENET HEROES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Radiology Team

Frye Regional Medical Center

Penny Williams, Radiology/Ancillary Supervisor, 1975

Connie Monday, Imaging Services Supervisor, 1995

Family is defined as “a person having a kinship with another or others.” This truly describes the radiology team at Frye Regional Medical Center.

The following account reflects just one example of staff dedication, passion and kinship in caring for the well-being of not only their patients but their co-workers.

One morning, one of their co-workers did not report to work or call, which was uncharacteristic. Phone calls to her home were not answered. Panic set in. She had lost her husband a year ago and now lives alone. Her immediate family members live over an hour away.

Penny and Connie took the lead in calling their co-worker’s home every 10 minutes. When those phone calls were not answered after the first hour, they called the area police department and asked if they would go by the home and call them back. After another hour of waiting with no information from the police, Penny and Connie decided to take matters into their own hands. They arranged coverage for their areas of responsibility and set out to check on their co-worker.

When Penny and Connie arrived at the home, they knew something was wrong. Her car was in the driveway, but there was no answer at the door. Penny and Connie called the local police to come immediately. A police officer arrived but told Penny and Connie that he could not enter the home “without cause.” They contacted one of her sisters to ask for permission for the police to enter the home. Permission was granted, and the police obliged.

Once inside, Penny and Connie found their co-worker huddled behind the door, scared, unkempt, crying and unable to communicate. She was physically capable of moving on her own, but her mental state was markedly altered. Penny and Connie accompanied her to the hospital. She has since been diagnosed with brain cancer that manifested itself the day she failed to report to work.

Penny and Connie could have remained at work going about their daily tasks without a second thought to a co-worker’s absence. They could have said “yes, something is up, but it’s not my problem.” But they didn’t. What transpired was an outpouring of care and compassion to a person in need, one of their co-workers, their “family.”

“Throughout one’s working career, you meet remarkable people; not only do they excel in the workplace, but when the opportunity arises, they restore the confidence that there are people who still uphold personal ideals and have the courage to rise to the next level of selflessness that most would never understand. Penny and Connie have shared with us priceless compassion and leadership,” said Andrea Worley, administrative director.

