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News Release

USU to charter chapter of international nursing honor society

BETHESDA, Md. – The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Graduate School of Nursing Honor Society will be chartered as the first federal chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing on May 10, 2004.

The chartering ceremony for the Tau Theta Chapter, conducted by May L. Wykle, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, will be held at 4 p.m. in Sanford Auditorium, Building B of USU, which is located on the campus of the National Naval Medical Center. A reception will follow at the university. Dr. Wykle is dean and Florence Cellar Professor of Nursing at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western University and former president of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Approval for the Tau Theta Chapter was granted at the Sigma Theta Tau International biennial convention in November 2003, held in Toronto. Some 200 military and federal nurse leaders and students will be inducted as charter members in this group.

Membership in Sigma Theta Tau International is by invitation and is extended to undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and professional nurses who have demonstrated superior scholastic, leadership and nursing achievements.

Sigma Theta Tau International has more than 300,000 members active in more than 90 countries to include 523 chapters in colleges and universities throughout the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, Netherlands, Pakistan, South Korea and Taiwan. The organization encourages and sponsors

research, promotes the development of nursing leadership and supports the development of nursing scholars.

In response to many requests from its federal members, Sigma Theta Tau International will partner with Tau Theta in our inaugural year to launch a virtual arm of the new chapter. This initiative offers Tau Theta the opportunity to extend its research, continuing education and network offerings to military and federal nurses worldwide.

Nurses interested in joining the chapter as new, transfer, or dual members are invited to contact the honor society president, retired Army Lt. Col. Janice Agazio, DNSc, CPNP, RN, at 301-295-1004 or jagazio@usuhs.mil by April 5, 2004.

USU was established by Congress under the Department of Defense in 1972 and has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. With its motto "Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way," the university has a worldwide reputation as a center of excellence for military medical education and research.