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6th ANNUAL
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CONTEST



By Nick Schaefer

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It's a bird, it's a plane...no, it's Supernurse!

Well, actually it's Gerald Flint, LVN, a mild-mannered licensed vocational nurse who just happens to be the founder of a medical volunteer organization that has helped save thousands of people in relief efforts around the world.

While Flint doesn't get into the "hero" talk, he admits his work brings him to places where "most medical professionals don't dare to go," including the African wilderness and a tsunami-wrecked village in Thailand.

A few months ago, Flint's selfless acts were rewarded by Cherokee Uniforms, which named him the grand prize winner for the LPN/LVN category of the 2006 Cherokee Inspired Comfort Awards. The award recognizes nurses and other nonphysician health professionals who demonstrate exceptional service, sacrifice, and innovation; and have a positive impact on others' lives. Nearly 900 nominations were submitted for this year's awards, according to Cherokee officials.

"The recognition is great, but my main objective is to bring help to those who need it around the world," Flint remarked.

LIKE MOTHER, LIKE SON

Flint, 48, said his inspiration to volunteer came from his mother, who used to bake cakes and knit clothes for people in need. As a child, Flint said he decided to make volunteering a part of his life.

That started with a lifetime of military service. Currently, Flint is an aeromedical evacuation technician with the U.S. Air Force Reserve but, amazingly, he has served in all four branches of the U.S. armed forces. The military was also Flint's entry into nursing. After undergoing training as a military medic through the Naval Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, IL, Flint challenged the California state nursing exam to become an LVN in 1984.

"Back then, the civilian world didn't recognize the training military medics and corpsmen received with a medical license," said Flint. "The LVN was the credential I was able to obtain through my military training. I am extremely proud to be a nurse."

Between his time as a Marine machine gunner and a full-time Army medic, Flint put his LVN credential to use as a nurse with Beverly Enterprises at Beverly Manors long-term care facilities in California and Indiana.

"I always enjoyed those jobs, I wanted to travel and be involved with helping people who really needed good medical care," he said.

During the 1991 Gulf War, as a state department volunteer, Flint helped set up health stations in Kuwait City. He treated both Kuwaiti and Iraqi civilians at the same facility Saddam Hussein had used as a base during the Iraqi occupation there, Flint said. Using his previous training in ophthalmology, Flint helped conduct exams, distribute donated eyeglasses and perform glaucoma screenings.

"Blindness is one of the big issues in foreign countries," said Flint. "The eyes are often neglected in healthcare. So many things can steal your vision, such as a filthy environment, dehydration, poor diet, and not enough fresh water. The eyes are one of the smallest organs and require a lot of nourishment and oxygen."

LPN Spotlight: Gerald Flint:

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COMMENTS

What an amazing man Gerald Flint is!
What an amazing NURSE he is!
This story should be in the national news, so everyone can see the incredible value of this nurse who just happens to be an LPN!
We are blessed to have someone like Gerald in our ranks!

Grace M
West Palm Beach , FL
April 23, 2007

What a giving man this is. Most folks don't even get to do half of what he has done. I am proud of my vocation as a nurse and am so proud of this man.

Lee McFetridge
Stanley , NY
April 20, 2007

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