



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



PATRICIA C. PHILLIPS '93

Level-III Surgical Nurse (Retired)

UPMC Shadyside Hospital

Before retirement, Patricia C. Phillips worked as a senior level-three surgical nurse and acted as role model of professional evidence-based practice at UPMC Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa.

For more than 37 years, Ms. Phillips was a circulating nurse in most of UPMC Shadyside Hospital's 26 operating rooms including: cardio-thoracic, open heart, ortho, neuro,

robotics and maxillo-facial. She also worked for 15 years as a plastic surgery specialty nurse, and as an open-heart nurse leader for six years.

As a captain Ms. Phillips served as a flight nurse tactical aerovac Desert Storm/Shield 1991 during the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and utilization manager for Tricare as a lieutenant colonel. She is now a Veteran of the United States Air Force.

"The desire to get my degree in nursing at La Roche College expanded the journey that would change my entire life," she said. "I am proud to be an American. The land of the free and the home of the brave."

Ms. Phillips received her registered nurse diploma from Shadyside Hospital School of Nursing in 1974. In 1993 she completed her bachelor's degree in nursing at La Roche College.

"My favorite memory of La Roche is graduation day. I sacrificed everything to continue on the road of success to earn a degree in nursing, to become a colleague to doctors and staff, and to serve patients, auxiliaries and communities."

Her volunteer experience includes serving as a radio announcer and public nurse at Christian Temple Church, as well as a desk receptionist for AARP. She said she is inspired to volunteer by thinking less of herself and helping others along the way.

