

**Professional Interests/Activities:** April is a long time Resp Therapist who has faithfully served our local community for over 43 yrs. April has committed her entire working career to her home town of Alexandria. She has faithfully worked in a department that has greatly evolved over the many years. She is known for the person to ask if anyone has questions. Her willingness to help our hospital in many disaster type events and willingness to come and help no matter what time of day. April has been responsible for organizing our hospital emergency carts and has been a member of the multidisciplinary CPR committee for decades. She teaches CPR both in the hospital and through out our community on a regular basis. April will be retiring this year and will be greatly missed. She is a true professional and a medical hero to our community. I could not think of a better Hero to honor than April Berjcha.

**Community Involvement:** April is very active in our community. For many years she has been involved in the Girl scouts program and spent years helping bring a new camp to the Alexandria area. She and her husband are very active volunteers for the local county fair donating countless hours to make sure this event is hugely successful. April also helps her local church put on a large Christmas gift programs for kids and families in need.

**Professional Accomplishments in the last year:**

**Why this person deserves to be chosen:** This nominee has been an RT before the time of our profession being know as Respiratory Therapists. Back at their starting point we were considered technicians or "tank jockies". We used MA1's as our ventilators and sippb treatments were our bipaps. They have worked for over 43 years in the same hospital and seen a dept grow from a 2 person dept now to a 14 person dept. This person has dedicated there entire life of serving and caring for the sickest pts in our community. Being called in hundreds of times in the middle of the night to save a life and then have to be back by 0700 ready to go again. They have dropped everything to respond to disasters and have caringly covered when other staff needed time off. They are known and widely respected both in our medical community as well as in our greater community. They have taught CPR for decades to hospital staff as well as out in our community and have indirectly saved many lives by their dedicated training. They have a giving heart and have made sure that the needy kids and families in our community have Christmas to enjoy by heading up a program called Angel Tree. As Director and co-worker for over 36 years I will truly miss this wonderful healthcare hero who is retiring this May and it is my honor to nominate them for this deserving award.