

Liz Thomas To Be Honored Before Deputy U. S. Surgeon General

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomas, who recently retired as Medical Clinic Supervisor at the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, will be honored with the Therapeutic Health Services (T/H/S) Alvirita Little Award, May 4, at The Golf Club at Newcastle. The Deputy Surgeon General of the United States, Rear Admiral Kenneth Moritsugu, MD, MPH, will be present at the event, the annual meeting of Therapeutic Health Services.

Ms. Thomas served children and families of Seattle's inner

city for nearly a quarter century, and was among the first employees at Odessa Brown. In 1975 Ms. Thomas became the first African American to complete the University of Washington's Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program, and she was the first African American in the state to practice as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

Ms. Thomas' career began when she was a child. She went to the local hospital to see her mother who was dying. Standing outside her window in the

"Blacks Only" wing, the nurse told her that she couldn't come in to visit her mom. She swore then that she would become a nurse and that no child would be denied the opportunity to comfort a parent in the hospital.

Throughout her career Ms. Thomas has been an advocate for children and families in Seattle's inner city. As role model and mentor, parenting instructor and nurse, Ms. Thomas touched the lives of thousands of children and families. In addition to her commitment to her commu-

nity, Ms. Thomas has also taken leadership roles in professional organizations both locally and nationally, Catholic Community Services, Seattle-King County Head Start and the Casey Family Program. In March, Ms. Thomas was inducted into the Washington State Nurses Association Hall of Fame.

The Alvirita Little Award is named in honor of Alvirita Little, founder of Girls Incorporated in Seattle. The award is presented to persons and organizations that have signifi-

cantly contributed to the health of children and families. The award will be presented at the Therapeutic Health Services 28th Annual Meeting where RADM Moritsugu will present the keynote address. The event begins with a no-host reception at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. and the program beginning at 8 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$75. Those wishing to honor Ms. Thomas without incurring the cost of the dinner may arrive after 7:30 p.m. An RSVP is required. For more information please call the

Development Office at T/H/S, (206) 726-4100.

Therapeutic Health Services is a non-profit, United Way of King County agency providing outpatient chemical dependency and mental health services to over 4,000 individuals and families in King County annually. T/H/S is the oldest and largest specialist in the delivery of culturally appropriate African ethnic mental health services in the state.

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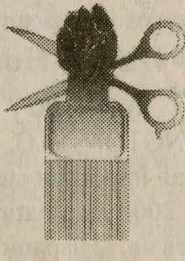
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