

B.L. “Nick” Burnett



Dr. Burnett is a Family Nurse Practitioner who retired from active practice in 2013, but continued to provide care, part time, in a metropolitan urgent care clinic until 2018. He was inducted into the second cohort of Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in 2001 and was FAANP Chair in 2006-2008. He served in the US Navy Nurse Corps and practiced in a variety of settings including having an independent practice and setting up 2 clinics to provide services in Iowa. He mentored and supported students throughout his career. He taught clinical nursing at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Provo Utah. In retirement he continued to support doctoral students in their work.

Interview Abstract:

Dr Burnett was one of the early nurse practitioners and was inducted into FAANP to recognize his clinical expertise and leadership. In the early days he understood that there needed to be a standard of education as the profession progressed.

As a profession new nurse practitioners needed to be mentored and encouraged to continue to grow professionally creating a need for experienced nurse practitioners to mentor the new NPs as their professional responsibility. He was a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioner (AANP) Board of Directors when the concept of a fellowship to recognize the individual achievements in research, clinical practice, and education was conceived and supported the development. Being inducted into the fellows he met Sue Cross one of the first graduates from the Royal College of Nursing in London. At this time, he recognized the nurse practitioner movement was growing on an international level and that not only could nurse practitioners be influential in healthcare in the US but globally. In the early days he hoped that nurse practitioners would become a influential and respected profession and would be become a dominant force to change the face of

healthcare. He hoped that nurse practitioners would join with others in professional organizations to effect significant change.

Biographical Sketch

Dr Burnett earned an Associate Degree in Science at Marshalltown Community College in Marshalltown, Iowa. He earned his BSN at Corpus Christi State University - Corpus Christi Texas and a MSN as a family nurse practitioner at Texas A&M. He earned a DNP at Ashbourne University in London, England.

He has held many clinical, educational and leadership positions. After retiring from the US Navy Nurse Corps he practiced in rural Iowa and opened an independent practice and was involved in educating nurse practitioner students.

His leadership included past Chair of FAANP and a former USPHS National Primary Care Policy Fellow representing the Academy, Dr. Burnett served on the Political Action Committee, Co-Chaired the Academy Conference Committee and was Region 7 Director and the AANP state representative from Iowa.

After retirement he continued to teach clinical nursing in the MSN/FNP program at Georgetown University and was on the Board of Trustees at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Provo, Utah. He continues to be passionate about his beloved profession and works part time in a metropolitan urgent care clinic. Dr. Burnett supports students with doctoral work as well.

Dr. Burnett spends summers in Iowa with his wife, Toni, their dog and his horse. They spend winters in Florida where they enjoy their retirement home with visits and horseback riding with retired friends. He is a most proud grandfather to three wonderful girls, and he will be glad to tell you all about them.

Keywords

Advanced practice, nurse practitioner, rural clinics, nurse practitioner private practice, primary care

Transcript

AANP Oral History Project

Interview with B. L. (Nick) Burnett

Interview July, 2018

Interviewer: Dr Donna McArthur

An Interview with B.L. “Nick” Burnett, DNP, FNP-C, ARNP, FAANP 2001 Inductee; FAANP Chair 2006-2008



Education

Dr. Burnett began his nursing education at Marshalltown Community School of Nursing and concurrently achieved an Associate Degree in Science at Marshalltown Community College in Marshalltown, Iowa. He earned his BSN at Corpus Christi State University, in Corpus Christi, Texas and is MSN as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. He earned a DNP at Ashbourne University in London, England.

Brief Bio:

Dr. Burnett is a Family Nurse Practitioner who retired from active practice in 2013, but continued to provide care, part time, in a metropolitan urgent care clinic until 2018. He continues to teach clinical nursing in the MSN/FNP program at Georgetown University and on the Board of Trustees at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Provo, Utah. He continues to be passionate about his beloved profession and works part time in a metropolitan urgent care clinic. Dr. Burnett supports students with doctoral work as well.

A retired US Navy Nurse Corps Officer and past Chair of FAANP and a former USPHS National Primary Care Policy Fellow representing the Academy, Dr. Burnett served on the Political Action Committee, Co-Chaired the Academy Conference Committee and was Region 7 Director and the AANP state representative from Iowa.

Dr. Burnett spends summers in Iowa with his wife, Toni, their dog and his horse. They spend winters in Florida where they enjoy their retirement home with visits and horseback riding with retired friends. He is a most proud grandfather to three wonderful girls and he will be glad to tell you all about them.

Why did you apply to become a Fellow?

I was flattered to be asked to join what I felt was the elite of the “old guard”. When I was invited I couldn’t believe that someone thought I had accomplished something that would be of value to the Fellows.

How did you feel when you were notified that you were selected as a Fellow?

Unbelievably excited. I felt like I had “arrived”. Like I was able to contribute to my profession at a level I had only dreamed of before.

What were your hopes for the Fellowship?

I hoped that the Fellows could guide the future of our profession to become a robust and highly respected method of providing healthcare to people across the lifespan. I had hoped we might even intervene in the upward spiral of the cost of healthcare, so that it might become available to anyone anywhere.

How did being in the Fellowship help you think more globally about being a Nurse Practitioner?

I was inducted with the first international Fellow Dr. Susan Cross of the UK. That was an awakening. I am not sure I had thought about the profession spreading in other countries. I hadn't thought of the cultures or the legalities of it. When I thought of a global approach for NPs I thought more of medical mission style of healthcare. I began to take notice of how it was being done and the pioneers I knew who were taking the profession to professionals on other continents. While I knew that was not my area of expertise, I certainly enjoyed watching Dr. Schober and Dr. Goodyear, along with so many others sharing with us how they were immersed in developing the education elsewhere.

What advice do you have for the present Fellows?

As the organization grows, you must find a way to stay active. You were selected because you demonstrated the skill and or knowledge to make our profession better. It is important that you stay connected and help to make this profession better and better accepted throughout the world.

What motivates you to maintain your Fellowship?

As I enter retirement I ask myself that question. I guess I am motivated because I was involved on the AANP Board of Directors when the Fellowship was conceived. I watched it develop and saw the potential for the program. I still feel dedicated, although conflicted because I feel we need to do more to involve the newer members. We selected them for what they had to offer our organization. We should do all we can to capitalize on their expertise. I was fortunate to be selected as the Chair of the organization, I am sure that cemented my dedication as well. I am quite proud to have been allowed to be a part of this special group of professionals.

You've been a Fellow since 2001, what changes have you seen in the Fellowship since then?

The organization has grown immensely, we totaled 35! Now it's hard to know who is a Fellow and to find a way to get them actively involved. With 35, you knew everyone, and everyone had to swing their "oar" or the "boat" was going to go anywhere. Now the numbers overwhelm! I often feel that it's an honor that is cherished only until you are inducted and then the value is only in the initials after your name.

What do you see are the pivotal moments in the past years? In Healthcare? In nursing? In Advanced Practice?

Certainly, Advanced Practice has garnered more acceptance in many states. Not all have independent practice, but we are much closer now than 18 years ago. I see so many NP programs and so many NP graduates each year and that has led to NPs doing more non-traditional roles in healthcare. Nursing has developed a standard of education that encourages advancing education and broadening of skills that brings the profession out of the closet and into the forefront in many areas.

How have you had a positive impact on the nurse practitioner movement?

I'm not really sure. I believe I have been a role model for many young people to consider a profession they never would have before. I have had patients, both female and male, who have gone into nursing, some became NPs. I have provided care to patients who "want(ed) to see a real doctor" and continued to see me for years and then my replacement, students and partners. I have worked alongside physicians who welcomed me and actually sought my input into healthcare at various levels. I have built two standalone clinics in small communities that have been seeing patients 5 days a week all year long for over 20 years now. I continued the care in another clinic that was about to close when the longtime physician left. It continues as well, all these clinics are run by NPs, some of which I trained.

What would you change if you had it to do over again?

Start at an earlier age! I would endeavor to open my practice to more indigent and spend more hours in the free clinics (I got the most personal satisfaction doing this) and encourage others to consider this profession.

If you could go back to 2001, what advice would you give yourself as you considered applying for Fellowship?

Be sincere, be centered, be prepared to participate but most of all be ready to grow. There are some incredible minds here that will challenge you and offer you more than you can even imagine.

What advice would you give to new nurse practitioners?

Join the AANP and your state/local organizations. It is up to us to grow our future.

What do you see as the role of Nurse Practitioners in health care in the next 25 years? 50 years? 100 Years?

I honestly believe that NPs will be shoulder to shoulder with MDs and DOs in future healthcare. We bring a slightly different product to the table, but the goals and outcomes are nearly the same. We just use a little different approach. I think there will come a day when patients will be as unconcerned about whether you are a MD/DO/NP/PA as they are about whether their eye care is from an Optometrist or an Ophthalmologist. They will just expect they will be treated with respect and referred to the provider that will best meet their needs.

July 2018, Nick was interviewed by Donna McArthur