Former President and CEO of Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines, Patricia Clare Sullivan, passed away on Monday, Feb. 5, at her home near Orlando, Fla., following a brief illness. She was 89 years old.

Patricia Clare, who loved nursing and all she cared for, served as president and CEO at Mercy from 1977 to 1993. She retired in 1993 following a career that included many roles at Mercy – Des Moines, Mercy College of Health Sciences and Mercy Medical Center – Centerville. She continued to serve Mercy as the head of external affairs through 1995.

Under Patricia Clare’s guidance, Mercy grew into a state-of-the-art medical center and one of Iowa’s largest employers. Mercy became a regional referral center and developed a reputation as a leader in many clinical specialties. During her tenure, the development of the Mercy Clinics’ system began, a new Bishop Drumm Retirement Center campus was constructed and the House of Mercy opened.

Those who served with Patricia Clare found her to be a tireless leader who was well respected in the Des Moines business community. She worked alongside business leaders to not only develop Mercy, but also to improve access to health care and improve the quality of life in Des Moines and surrounding communities. Patricia Clare was elected to the Catholic Health Association board of directors and served on many local boards — including Casey’s General Store and the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, now known as the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

Among her many recognitions, Patricia Clare was honored with the National Conference of Christians and Jews Leadership Award. She was a member of the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame and was the first woman inducted into the Central Iowa Business Hall of Achievement.

Following her retirement to Florida, Patricia Clare remained dedicated and generous to Mercy College of Health Sciences. The Sullivan Center on the Mercy College campus opened in 2005 and serves to educate future nurses, health professionals and leaders. To honor Patricia Clare’s legacy of service to health care and the important role she played in nursing education, Mercy Auxiliary established the Patricia Clare Sullivan Endowed Nursing Scholarship in 2009 to help nursing students with financial need.

A prayer service celebrating the life of Patricia Clare Sullivan will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 12:30 p.m., in the East Tower Auditorium. Members of the Mercy Family and general public are welcome to attend.
MERCY NAMED SCREENING CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines has been named a Screening Center of Excellence by the Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA) for its ongoing commitment to responsible lung cancer screening. There are approximately 500 screening centers nationwide following best practices outlined by the Lung Cancer Alliance. Low dose CT screening for lung cancer carried out safely, efficiently and equitably saves tens of thousands of lives a year.

Designated Screening Centers of Excellence have committed to provide clear information based on current evidence on who is a candidate for lung cancer screening, and to comply with comprehensive standards based on best practices developed by professional bodies such as the American College of Radiology, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program for controlling screening quality, radiation dose and diagnostic procedures within an experienced, multi-disciplinary clinical setting.

“Mercy Medical Center is dedicated to providing patients with the highest quality care. Low dose CT screening has shown to be the only proven method to detect lung cancer at an early and treatable stage. We are thrilled to be part of this elite group, setting an example for responsible screening practices across the country,” said Susan Eckels, Mercy’s director of Imaging Services.

“This achievement, the substantial growth in the number of screening tests performed, and the numbers of lung cancers that have been found both in the Screening Program and in the Incidental Pulmonary Nodule Program, are a result of not only the exceptional energy and effort of those directly involved in the daily operations of the program, but also the fantastic support from the Radiology Department, Mercy Cancer Center, Chris Christensen, and Dr. Tim McCoy. I’m certain that in 2018 we will see continued growth in both the Lung Cancer Screening Program and the Incidental Pulmonary Nodule Program,” said Neil Horning, M.D., medical director of respiratory therapy.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES ON FEB. 14

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, Roman Catholics and many Christians begin their Lenten journey by receiving ashes on their foreheads. The ash cross made by priests and ministers, along with prayer, reminds us of our creation by God. It is also a call to reflect on our spiritual life, to pray, sacrifice and prepare for Jesus’s triumphant resurrection on Easter.

The schedule of services and ash distribution is listed below. Everyone is welcome to take part in these services. Patients who would like to receive ashes should contact Pastoral Care at 7-3238. The Mass on central campus will be available on channel 4.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

MERCY CENTRAL CAMPUSS
OUR LADY OF MERCY CHAPEL
7-7:30 a.m.
Following 11:30 a.m. Mass
3 - 3:30 p.m.

MERCY WEST LAKES
OUR LADY OF MERCY CHAPEL
7:30 – 8:00 a.m.
Following 11:30 a.m. Mass
3 – 3:30 p.m.

MERCY RECEIVES “BEST OF” AWARD

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, Cityview held their annual “Best of” awards in Des Moines. Among the 260 categories ranging from restaurants to entertainment to medical providers, Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines received “Best Local Hospital” for the third year in a row. More than 9,734 Cityview readers voted in this year’s contest. Thank you to everyone who voted Mercy as their top hospital choice!