

EACH Clinic a tribute to legacy

Story and photo by Andrea Stone
Mountaineer staff – Feb. 7, 2014



Friends and family celebrate the dedication of the Cindy Fowler Breast Clinic at Evans Army Community Hospital, Jan. 31. Her husband, Chuck Fowler, and daughter, Emily Sheldon, unveiled the dedication plaque with the assistance of Maj. Gen. Jimmie Keenan, commanding general, Southern Regional Medical Command, and chief, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, and Col. Dennis P. LeMaster, Fort Carson Medical Department Activity commander.

The snow may have been falling and the post closed to non-essential personnel, but in a dedication ceremony Jan. 31, the legacy of one of Fort Carson's Good Neighbors was remembered.

The breast clinic at Evans Army Community Hospital was renamed the Cindy Fowler Breast Clinic.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to memorialize Cindy's legacy, a legacy of generosity, a legacy of vision, a legacy of caring," said Col. Dennis P. LeMaster, Fort Carson Medical Department Activity commander. "I think it all comes back to the notion that healthy women translate into healthy families, which translate into the greater good of healthy and strong communities."

Fowler founded Cowgirls and Cocktails, part of the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Foundation, to promote breast cancer awareness. The organization assisted EACH in purchasing equipment to ease the recovery process for women undergoing treatment.

For her service to Soldiers and Families of Fort Carson, Fowler was inducted into the Good Neighbor program in 2011. She died after a four-year battle with breast cancer, Feb. 29, 2012.

“This is very touching to have all of you here,” said Chuck Fowler, Cindy Fowler’s husband. “It’s poetic, that we stand here today honoring her and what she did ... what she was best at doing, which was giving her heart away to everybody.”

The clinic will continue to provide early detection, prevention and treatment of breast cancer, as it did for cancer survivor Yolanda Wilson. “Evans Army Community Hospital was the greatest support system that I had. The doctors reached out to me. They called me. They made sure I was OK,” she said in remarks at the ceremony. “I hope that every woman that’s ever been diagnosed here has that great support system that I had, because you need that. You can’t do it alone.”

The support of others and the will to fight were qualities that marked Cindy Fowler.

“Cindy fought until the day she died ... she was not going to give up,” said Maj. Gen. Jimmie Keenan, commanding general, Southern Regional Medical Command, and chief, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, and a close friend of Fowler.

“We have an obligation to continue the fight ...and we are going to be better able to provide those services to our Family members, to our female Soldiers, to male Soldiers, to be able to take better care of our beneficiaries. And to be able to call it the Cindy Fowler Breast Clinic means a lot. It’s a way for us to say, ‘Thank you,’” she said.

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