



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **INA Meritorious Service Award Recipients**

The International Nanny Association Meritorious Service Award goes to an INA member who has been a strong, sustained supporter of the International Nanny Association and its mission. Individuals eligible to receive this award cannot receive remuneration for the activities supporting the INA. The individual is a volunteer whose activities support the INA.

On Saturday, March 23, 2019, the INA Board of Directors awarded the INA Meritorious Service Award posthumously to Judy Merlin. Judi had a vision to create a business that would ensure the wellbeing of children and elevate the status of caregiving. She founded 'A Friend of the Family' in 1984 and ran it for more than 30 years before retiring in 2014. Called a pioneer and trailblazer in the industry, it is said that she "brought new found dignity and professional wages to those who provide care for others. She brought job security and pride to a sea of skilled women, many of whom were women of color and from widely varied backgrounds with limited access and options."

Nannies who worked with Judi speak of her advocacy and willingness to invest in others. Agency friends and colleagues recognize her sound input, willingness to collaborate and offer insights and advice. It is said that her experiences demonstrated her wisdom. She was a founding member of APNA (Association of Premier Nanny Agencies) and received many awards and accolades over the years including a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015.

In February of 2018, Judi was hit by a car while crossing the street near her home and died from the injuries she sustained. Judi's daughter Hilary, with her siblings, created the I STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS MAGNET to spark the conversation of pedestrian fatalities, which are on the rise; up 27% in the last ten years. They raised thousands of dollars and shared 3,000 magnets; creating something beautiful and positive from such a terrible tragedy. To honor Judi's memory, the INA donated a gift to the Judi Merlin Scholarship for APNA Excellence and Education. If you would also like to honor Judi in this way, find more information on the APNA Website <https://theapna.org/about/judith-langer-merlin-scholarship-for-apna-education/>.

### **About the International Nanny Association**

INA's mission is to serve as the umbrella association for the in-home child care industry by providing information, education, and guidance to the public and to industry professionals. The International Nanny Association (INA), a nonprofit organization, serves as the umbrella organization for the in-home child care industry. INA members include nannies, nanny employers, nanny agencies, educators and industry service providers. Since 1985, INA has worked to professionalize the industry by setting high standards for industry professionals and nanny agencies. INA leverages the expertise of industry professionals from around the globe to help increase awareness about the industry, to develop the professional skills of nannies, and to educate parents about the benefits of hiring a qualified nanny to care for their children.