

# Jean Reeder, devoted nurse

## Led Sick Kids' staff for 5 years

BY NICHOLAS KEUNG  
STAFF REPORTER

Jean Marie Reeder was so proud of her nursing profession that she always wrote, "Yours in nursing" at the end of her correspondences.

"She used to say, 'Hello, my name is Jean Reeder and I am a nurse,' recalled friend Janet Rush, chief nursing officer at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. "Her passion for her profession was an example to all of us."

Mrs. Reeder was the hospital's chief nurse when 10-year-old Lisa Shore died unexpectedly in 1998 after staff failed to monitor effects of the morphine she was given.

She was given verbal and written cautions by the Ontario College of Nurses for failing to

conduct a probe into Lisa's nursing care while Ruth Doerksen, 41, and Anagaile Soriano, 25, were charged with a joint count of criminal negligence causing Lisa's death.

Mrs. Reeder, who left the hospital at the end of her five-year tenure in 2000, died suddenly in her Anacortes, Wash., home April 30. She was 52.

After graduating from Arizona State University with a bachelor of science degree in nursing, Mrs. Reeder joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and served as a staff nurse for 24 years. During that time, she earned her master's and doctoral degrees in nursing from the University of Maryland.

During her five years at Sick Kids, Mrs. Reeder initiated tu-

ition reimbursement plans for nurses to upgrade their skills, established the hospital's first pediatric nursing chair and developed the Centre for Nursing there in 1997.

Nurse Cynthia Struthers, who was hired and mentored by Mrs. Reeder in the fall of 1999, praised her as "a fair and demanding boss."

"But she could be warm and supportive. She really moved nursing from one plateau to another," said Struthers, Sick Kids' director of clinical and advanced practice nursing.

After her stint at Sick Kids, Mrs. Reeder returned to the U.S. and started her own consulting practice in helping hospitals promote patient safety and minimize medical errors.

The hospital plans to hold a memorial service at 2 p.m. next Thursday in its main auditorium.

A funeral is to be held tomorrow in Phoenix, Arizona.



JEAN REEDER