

## Donna Algase Bio

2021

A native of Toledo, OH, Dr. Donna L. (Muszynski) Algase graduated from the St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing in 1967 and obtained a BSN from the University of Toledo in 1976. Her graduate studies included a MSN from the former Medical College of Ohio in 1983, specializing in gerontological nursing, and a PhD from Case Western Reserve University in 1988.

In her early career, Donna worked as a pediatric and pediatric intensive care nurse at the St. Vincent Hospital in Toledo. While completing her BSN, she developed an interest in gerontological nursing and, with a colleague, Diana Waugh, RN, BSN, established an educational consulting business to deliver in-service and continuing education programs for long-term care facilities. She and Diana went on to establish a department of continuing education and a nursing home area training center at Owens College. Following completion of her MSN, and during her doctoral studies, she assumed a faculty role at the Medical College of Ohio in the School of Nursing and established a joint faculty practice with a medical school faculty member and geriatrician, Dr. John McGreevey. After earning her PhD, Dr. Algase joined the nursing faculty at the University of Michigan (UM).

During her career at UM, Dr. Algase taught courses in gerontological nursing and nursing theory. She established a long-standing research program on wandering behavior associated with dementia and several other training and educational programs including the Center on Frail and Vulnerable Elders at the UM School of Nursing and, in collaboration with Dr. Audrey Nelson at the Tampa Veteran's Administration, a national Wandering Research Consortium. Her work generated approximately \$12M in total funding, \$8M as a Principal Investigator. She also served as editor of the journal *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice* from 2005 to 2012. Dr. Algase has over 150 publications, including peer-reviewed journal articles (approximately 70), book chapters, editorials, peer-reviewed abstracts, and 1 book. She retired from UM in 2010 as the Josephine M. Sana Collegiate Professor of Nursing and was awarded status as a Professor Emerita by its Board of Regents. Subsequently, she returned to her alma mater at the University of Toledo and served 3 years as its first Associate Dean for Research before retiring in June, 2013.

Dr. Algase is married to her husband Drew M. Algase, a native of Cleveland Hts., OH, for the past 53 years. Has two grown children, son David Michael and daughter Leslie Gayle. She is also grandmother to Elliot James Algase and serves as great-grandmother to Zorianna Anne Bailey. Donna resides in Plymouth, MI, is a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, and in formation with the St. John of the Cross Lay Carmelite community at Christ the King parish in Ann Arbor, MI. She enjoys serving in church ministries, reading, sewing, embroidery, and stained glass making. Donna and her husband enjoy summers at their retreat on Kelley Island, OH where she volunteers as a librarian.