



It is with a broken heart and great sadness to inform you of the death of a longtime Greater New York ANAC member, Deborah Batson, February 4, 2024. Debbie was a proud graduate from St. Vincent's Diploma Nursing Program in NYC and a pioneer in HIV Nursing. She began her career as an HIV nurse at the St. Vincent's AIDS Unit, which was the first and largest AIDS Unit on the East Coast. This was one of the only hospitals in NYC that didn't turn AIDS patients away. Debbie was a fierce advocate for all her patients.

Years passed and she moved to Rivington House, which was a long-term care facility for people with AIDS, where she used her amazing palliative care skills until it closed in 2014. She then moved on to an HIV Day Treatment center.

She was involved with the Greater New York Chapter shortly after its inception and was a member of ANAC's palliative care committee until she died. Debbie was the recipient of the President's Award under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey Kwong. She did not miss a single conference or chapter meeting until last year when she just wasn't able to juggle caring for her aging parents and travelling.

I will miss her organizing the local meetings and always obtaining the best caterers! She would check in with members often and show up at members family funeral services for support.

The last time I spoke with her, she was apologizing for not being able to make my husband's memorial service. Always thinking of others.

She held her ACRN for years and was so proud of ANAC and its mission.

The Greater New York Chapter mourns this huge loss and will be forever grateful for her contribution to HIV nursing.

Sadly,

Melanie Steilen and the GNY Chapter