

Keynote Speaker Honorable Pamela Wallin

The 22nd ORNAC National Conference welcomed a very prestigious keynote speaker , honorable Pamela Wallin. Senator Pamela Wallin spoke on Friday, May 13th, 2011, to a large number of Perioperative Nursing delegates in attendance.

Senator and former journalist, diplomat, entrepreneur, Wallin was the closing keynote speaker.

Wallin grew up in small-town Saskatchewan, a point she brought up in her speech, which mentioned how being from a small place shapes who you are. She said, "I think we learned some important lessons about life in these places, you have to be able to accommodate and get along with people when you live in a small town. It really teaches us tolerance and accommodation."

Senator Wallin spoke with some humour and some poignancy. She spoke about Saskatchewan and being from Canada with fondness. "Our geography is very much instilled in us. But it's the people here who are really extraordinary."

Senator Wallin told stories of inspiration, stories of her own experiences in Afghanistan, in New York City following 9-11, and being an ambassador for the province she is so proud to say she came from.

She spoke very fondly of her mother and father throughout her speech.

"My mother and father taught me I think life's most important lesson. What they said was that with character comes genius. You can be the smartest person in the room but if you're not kind, if you're not decent, if you're not fair, if you're not generous when it's tough to be so, then all the brains in the world are for naught." They also warned her to "feel free to speak your mind, but once your mind is informed"!

In her concluding inspirational words, Wallin spoke about the potential that exists in all of us, she said that we need to be passionate about our job in order for us all to make a real difference!"

Respectfully submitted by: Christina Cass

Thank you,

Yours in Patient Safety,

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