



**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

RN Lolita Todd has worked or supervised just about every department at Chase County Community Hospital (CCCH) over the past 20 years. For her service she will receive the Caring Kind Employee award, given to just a few hospital employees in Nebraska, at a Nebraska Hospital Association ceremony in Lincoln Oct. 15-16.

Todd has been the emergency room supervisor for two years, obstetrician/nursery supervisor for five years, intensive care unit supervisor, and worked in the operating room for about 10 years. She is currently a floor nurse.

The nurse works three 12-hour shifts per week. "It's hard work and demanding, a lot of hours," Todd observed.

Todd first received her registered nurse license in the Philippines in 1973. She and husband Duane had been pen pals.

When he was stationed in the Philippines, they began dating. Todd then accepted a position as a contract nurse for hospitals in Vienna, Austria for two years.

Duane proposed, and they were married in 1976 in the U.S. She became a nurses' aide at Chase County Community Hospital before giving birth to daughters Krystal and Jessica.

In 1985 Todd became licensed as a registered nurse in Nebraska. She worked for over seven years at Dundy County Hospital in Benkelman. Dr. James Schiefen, a surgeon in both Benkelman and Imperial, encouraged her to apply at CCCH in 1989.

Daughter Krystal has followed in her mother's surgical scrubs, becoming a registered nurse at Bryan Memorial Hospital in Lincoln, in the medical/surgical department.

Daughter Jessica is employed by Ford Anderson in Lincoln. Duane is the Chase County Veterans Administration officer.

Of the Caring Kind Employee award, Todd said she was surprised. She described nursing as "a very satisfying job, knowing you're doing something different and helping somebody."

Todd said a person "can't get that kind of satisfaction elsewhere. You get hugs and 'Oh, you saved my life' comments. It's more meaningful than the value of money."