Patricia D. Horoho  
Doctor of Laws

Lieutenant General (Retired) Patricia Dallas Horoho served as the 43rd Surgeon General of the United States Army from 2011 to 2015. She was the first nurse and the first woman to hold that position, which was established during the American Revolution in 1775. As Surgeon General she oversaw the U.S. Army Medical Command, the third largest health care system in the United States; she directed the Army’s medical training, research, and logistics; she promoted a culture that focused proactively on well-being and health; and she spoke across the country about reducing medical errors and improving patient care and outcomes.

A native of Fayetteville, North Carolina, Horoho earned her Bachelor’s degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Master of Science in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh. She later attended the Army’s Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, where she earned a second Master’s degree in national resource strategy. Horoho co-authored a chapter on training field hospitals that was published by the U.S. Army Reserve Command Surgeon. In 2010, the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences appointed her as Distinguished Professor in the Graduate School of Nursing.

Horoho distinguished herself not just academically, but also in the field. She deployed to Haiti and to Afghanistan. Her military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the rank of Chevalier in France’s National Order of the Legion of Honor, Japan’s Defense Cooperation Award Second Class and the President’s Lifetime Achievement Award. The American Red Cross commended her as a Nurse Hero for providing first aid to victims of the attack at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

Horoho’s other honors include USO’s 2009 Woman of the Year, the Tiffany Circle Distinguished Woman Warrior from the American Red Cross, the Riland Public Service Award from the New York Institute of Technology, and the Helen Manzen Award from the NYU College of Nursing. Family Circle magazine recognized her as one of our nation’s Most Influential Moms. UNC’s School of Nursing named her Alumna of the Year in 2011, and UNC-Chapel Hill presented her with a Distinguished Alumna Award in 2014.

For outstanding accomplishments and leadership in health care and military service, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Patricia Dallas Horoho the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa.