

Carolyn Lahey

A medical arts building was appended to the Julia Butterfield Memorial Hospital complex in the 1970s, providing office space for physicians and physical therapists in private practice. That structure was destroyed by fire in early 1983, and its replacement, the Carolyn Lahey Pavilion, honors a native Philipstown resident who served this community with dedication and distinction.

Carolyn Lahey, née Smith, was born in Manitou in 1939. She was the daughter of Vivian Palen Smith and Harold Smith. She was a graduate of the Manitou School and Haldane High School, and, after marrying Philip J. Lahey in 1957, went on a decade later to a successful career in medical facility administration at Butterfield Hospital. She was a 24-year employee of the Hospital, advancing from a switchboard operator to Assistant Hospital Administrator. While rising through the ranks, she served as the Director of Butterfield's Medical Records Department, a post she earned after training in medical records management at the State University of New York at Albany and being accredited by the American Medical Records Association. Mrs. Lahey also acted as liaison for the Medical Records Department at Putnam Community Hospital from 1981 to 1984. She was an active member of the Butterfield Hospital Auxiliary and co-chaired the annual Butterfield Hospital Fair.

Following the devastating fire in the hospital's original medical arts building, Assistant Administrator Lahey worked closely with the medical staff to facilitate its reconstruction. The new structure was designed by Peekskill architect Ivars Hansen, and, like the earlier portions of the complex, it is representative of the architectural fashion of its time. Its form is linear and low to the ground and its façade is largely without ornamentation. Its interior decoration was advised by Fred Stanyer, who at the time was director of the Boscobel Restoration. Today, although the structure remains physically attached to the 1925 portion of Butterfield Hospital, the Pavilion is independently owned and operated by Hudson Valley Hospital Center.

Tragically, during the rebuilding of the medical arts building, Carolyn Lahey she died suddenly. A deeply saddened medical staff chose to name the new facility in her honor; it was dedicated as the Carolyn Lahey Pavilion on July 19, 1985. In a remembrance published immediately after her death in July 1984, Thomas Dee, the Chief Operating Officer of Butterfield Hospital said "Rarely does an individual play such a major role in the personality of an institution as Carol did. Her dedication, professionalism, sensitivity and leadership have been the driving forces behind Butterfield Hospital for many years. . . She had the unique ability to transcend ideas into action. While most of us would sit around and discuss, Carol would go out and do."