

## **Who is eligible to receive the Irene Burggraff Award?**

1. A member in good standing of the Minnesota Society for Histotechnology.
2. Anyone you feel is an asset to the Minnesota Society and/or to the field of Histotechnology.

The nominee must not be a current member of the board.

You must submit your nomination by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

All nominations should be sent to the current MSH Vice President.

Nominations will be voted on by the board and the winner will be presented the award at the Spring Symposium/Convention.

## Irene Burggraff Award

Why do I think this is the greatest award a Minnesota Histotech could receive? Because Irene gave me and every Histotech the greatest gift anyone can give: HER LIFE. Irene was very proud to be "just a Histotech." She was looking forward to new techniques and new discoveries that the future Histotech would develop. Irene wanted to be part of the "future" but, "O'Man, BENZENE" decided she had to pay the ultimate sacrifice; she died at age 36.

Irene's 2 year old daughter and two older sons also made the sacrifice for Histology—their Mother.

Irene came to every convention she could from 1973 thru 1976, because she felt that was the least she could do. She couldn't sing enough praises for the people involved in establishing the Society.

Irene was always talking about her love for Histology, not knowing that even as she testified for Histology it was slowly taking her life.

Of course, when Irene started working in histology, it was common practice to ask "Why do you need hoods in your lab?-Why can't you work in this 8' x 8' room without any ventilation?"

I feel Irene gave her life for me, a Histotech and for every other Histotech. Maybe, because of the great sacrifice Irene and others like her have made, we now have better equipment and better ventilation to work with.

By Dorothy Lingk, HTL (ASCP)

The Irene Burggraff Award not only symbolizes all the histotechs who have died because of their profession, but also the dedication and continued education of all Histotechs in the field of Histotechnology.