



## Yolee Casagrande, R.N., O.C.N.

*On Saturday, October 19, 2008, Yolee Casagrande was recognized by the Anaheim Ducks as this year's Hockey Fights Cancer Community Hero. Each year, the Ducks join a league-wide initiative in honoring Hockey Fights Cancer Awareness Month to raise funds for fighting cancer, benefiting the Michael O'Donnel Memorial Fund at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.*



**Yolee** is a registered nurse specializing in the care of patients with colon cancer and other diseases of the colon and rectum such as Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis. Beyond her expertise as an oncology nurse specialist, she has dedicated herself to the education and support of hospital nursing personnel and patients as well. Working with the Department of Colorectal Surgery, she has developed, implemented and participates in nursing in-service education for the USC hospitals and other community health care centers. Yolee established our support groups for patients with colorectal cancer and irritable bowel disease (IBD). She also established our annual reception for colorectal cancer patients, which takes place each March during National Colon Cancer Month. Author and physician, Dr. Vladimir Lange, drew on Yolee's nursing expertise as a consultant in the development of his book "*Be A Survivor: A Colorectal Cancer Treatment Guide.*" Lastly, Yolee actively participates in the research programs for the Department of Colorectal Surgery by identifying appropriate patients and monitoring their progress to insure they receive the highest quality of health care.

Within months of receiving her nursing degree in 1989 and while establishing her career in nursing, Yolee also established herself as a volunteer and consultant for some of the most ambitious volunteer and philanthropic organizations. She has worked in Mexico with the Flying Samaritans, provided nursing support for Ronald McDonald's Camp Good Times for Kids with Cancer, Paul Newman's Painted Turtle Camp for Kids with IBD, and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation's Camp for Kids with IBD. She has also worked closely with the Padres Contra El Cancer for kids with cancer, and the Stennis Family Foundation, which dedicates itself to education about the prevention of colorectal cancer.

Yolee has without a doubt earned a lifetime of accolades. She is also a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, aunt, and a wonderful friend to many.

