



Established 1972

By and For the People of Love County

**Richard Barker,
Administrator**

**Ambulance Emergency
911**

**Clinic Appointments
276-2400**

**Hospital Information
276-3347**

**Adult Day Center
276-1542**

**Community Resources
211**

**Domestic Violence Help
276-2042
Hotline - 226-6424**

**Growers Market
276-9410**

WEEKEND CHARGE NURSE HIGHLY PREPARED

“You were born to be a nurse,” Karen Ridley’s mother told her, and she took a Halloween picture of her young daughter costumed for the profession. A dozen years later, the mom proudly placed the childhood snapshot in a frame alongside Ridley’s grownup picture – wearing an authentic uniform – taken at Murray State College nursing program graduation.

That was in 1976, and Ridley is still practicing devotedly in the profession from which she says she plans never to retire. “I will never be tired of nursing. I’ll only quit if I become physically unable to do the job,” she said. “My mom was right.”

Here’s the type of experience Ridley has brought to Mercy Health/Love County, starting in December 2017, in her job as a charge nurse on weekend nights:

- **30 years as an intensive care nurse**
- **13 years as a veteran’s center nurse**
- **Additional years of nursing in surgery and in managing a skilled nursing unit**

She once helped deliver a baby boy who years later become her son-in-law!

Ridley bonds with each patient and the patient’s family. “I try to become part of the family unit, let them see they can trust me, display to them that my care is all about you and how for the next 12 hours I will be making you as comfortable as I possibly can,” she said.

She is excited to join our ER and nursing floor. “I wanted a smaller environment and to help Love County people,” she said. She was married almost 20 years prior to his death to Terry Folsom of Marietta. They raised daughters April, a technician with the hospital in Ardmore, and Taloa, a billing consultant.

She is now married to Ken Ridley, a retired respiratory therapist. Ridley earned her four-year bachelor’s degree in nursing in 2008. For superior academic abilities, the Oklahoma City University Kramer School of Nursing instructors nominated her to Sigma Theta Tau honor society.



Karen Ridley, BSN, RN

We’re YOUR Hospital, Clinic and EMS

Mercy Health/Love County

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www.mercyhealthlovecounty.com

*The Small-Town Hospital
with the Big Heart*

