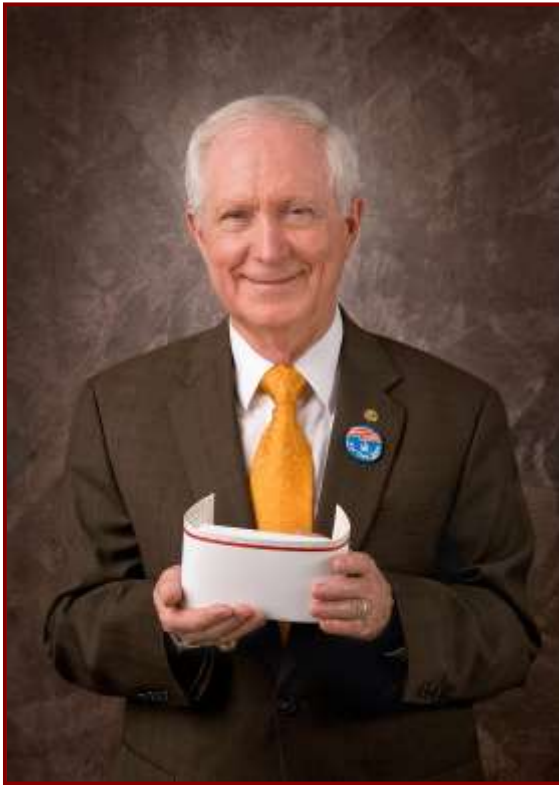


From Cap to Crown



Several years ago, my mother-in-law – a woman whom I loved dearly – was a resident for 2½ years in a nursing home in Cookeville, Tennessee. Some of the women who attended to her wore caps, similar to the one shown here. I watched in appreciation and awe as they met her needs, demonstrating their professional skills, giving her hugs and encouragement, showing tenderness in their voice and their touch.

You rarely see these caps nowadays. The contemporary look is favored over the formal, allowing more ease, freedom and flexibility in the provision of services, and addresses a concern that the cap could be a carrier of bacteria. But while the cap has disappeared, the same passion and commitment to the nurse's calling still reigns within.

We are in the middle of National Nurses Week, which started on Monday, May 6, and runs through Sunday, May 12. These celebrations are a big deal with Life Care; after all, nurses are at the heart of all that we do in long-term care.

The purpose of National Nurses Week is to raise awareness of the value of nursing and help educate the public about the role nurses play in meeting the health care needs of the American people.

May 12, the conclusion to National Nurses Week, is the birthday of Florence Nightingale, considered the founder of modern nursing. She was a celebrated English nurse, writer and statistician. As with Nightingale, many of our nurses also believe that God has called them to the profession.

Life Care Centers of America is truly blessed with wonderful nurses. We simply could not achieve our mission without their heart of compassion and skill to heal. May God bless them, every one.

The cap I hold once adorned the heads of these servant leaders. In its place rests a crown of honor, won by faithfulness in their words and their deeds.

– Beecher Hunter