

God Bless Our Nurses

Go hug a nurse. It's his or her day. This is National Nurses Day, kicking off National Nurses Week, which runs through May 12. The celebration, appropriately, coincides with National Nursing Home Week, May 8-14. 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.

Two great examples are Adele Anahory, director of nursing at Life Care Center of Ocala, Fla., who won the Mary Denton Award at the recent meeting of Life Care's directors of nursing, and Vicky Burge, director of nursing at Mi Casa Nursing Center in Mesa, Ariz., who received the Company-Wide Director of Nursing of the Year Award. Their qualifications for the profession are superb, and their passion for their work and the compassion they demonstrate – with residents and associates – are inspiring. It is obvious that God chose them and equipped them for the work they do.



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. An Anglican, Nightingale believed that God had called her to be a nurse. She came to prominence during the Crimean War, where she tended to wounded soldiers. She was dubbed "The Lady with the Lamp" after her habit of making rounds at night.

The Florence Nightingale Pledge is a modified "Hippocratic Oath" composed in 1893 by Mrs. Lystra E. Gretter and a Committee for the Farrand Training School for Nurses in Detroit. It was so named as a token of esteem for Nightingale. Here it is:

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work, and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

Life Care is truly blessed with wonderful nurses. May God bless them every one.

– Beecher Hunter