The Nightingale Tribute

A Tribute to Departed Colleagues
Nurses in Memoriam

On the Saturday morning of June 23, 2005, a meeting of the 2005 House of Delegates sanctioned the Nightingale Tribute as a way of honoring nurses at the end of their life's journey. With the consent of the house, ANA adopted this tribute as its official ceremony for honoring nurses who are no longer with us. Nurses present at the house were asked to step forward to the microphone and prepare at the appointed time to say the nurse's name and the name of the CMA in which the nurse held membership.

ANA has thus instituted this "Nurses in Memoriam" book, which is displayed, here at

ANA Headquarters
8515 Georgia Avenue - Suite 400, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

At every ANA Membership Assembly (formerly, House of Delegate) there will be a white rose and white candle placed before the dais. It is the custom, approved by the 2005 house, that anytime the house is in session, the white candle will be lit and will remain lit until the house adjourns.

During the 2005 house, Barbara Blakeney, ANA House of Delegates chair, invited Janice Jones, president of the Kansas State Nurses Association, and Duane Jaeger of the Kansas State Nurses Association, to the lower dais to assist with the ceremony. Janice is the architect of the tribute and Duane is the architect of the poem which is included in the tribute.
Nursing is a calling, a lifestyle, a way of living. Nurses here today honor our deceased ANA colleagues. Their life as a nurse is not remembered by their years as a nurse, but rather by the difference each of them made by stepping into people’s lives ... by special moments.
She/He Was There
By Duane Jaeger, MSN, RN

When a Calming, Quiet Presence Was All That Was Needed,
She Was There.

In The Excitement and Miracle of Birth or In the Mystery and Loss of Life,
He Was There.

When a Silent Glance Could Uplift a Patient, Family Member or Friend,
She Was There.

At Those Times When the Unexplainable Needed To Be Explained,
He Was There.

When the Situation Demanded a Swift Foot and Sharp Mind,
She Was There.

When a Gentle Touch, a Firm Push, or an Encouraging Word Was Needed,
He Was There.

In Choosing the Best One from a Family’s "Thank You" Box of Chocolates,
She Was There.

To Witness Humanity, It’s Beauty, In Good Times and Bad, Without Judgment,
He Was There.

To Embrace the Wees of the World, Willingly, and Offer Hope,
She Was There.

And Now That It’s Time to Be At the Greater One’s Side,
They Are There.

Our colleagues, we honor you this day and present this white rose and light this candle to symbolize our honor and appreciation for being our nurse colleagues.
2016
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