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NEWS RELEASE



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NATIONAL NURSES WEEK (NNW) 2008 CELEBRATES **NURSES' MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY**

Silver Spring, MD - The American Nurses Association (ANA) has announced the theme of National Nurses Week 2008, "Nurses: Making a Difference Every Day." National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

"This year's theme embodies what it means to be a registered nurse every day," said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. "Today's nurses make the ultimate sacrifice on a daily basis to provide expert care during times of disaster and crisis; we want to honor the men and women who not only chose this challenging and rewarding career, but make a difference in the lives of their patients and in the nursing community."

During National Nurses Week, ANA reaffirms its commitment to improve the quality of health care and the working conditions of nurses. The growing shortage of RNs poses a real threat to the nation's health care system and the public's health, and ANA is dedicated to fighting for a workplace environment that will encourage current nurses to continue in their careers, and inspire young men and women to consider nursing as a profession.

Annually, National Nurses Week focuses on highlighting the diverse ways in which registered nurses are working to improve health care. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long-term care facilities to the halls of research institutions, state legislatures, and Congress, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is meeting the expanding health care needs of American society.

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For more information on National Nurses Week, go to

<http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/MediaResources/NationalNursesWeek.aspx>.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.

