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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA RALLIES MEMBERS AROUND IMPORTANCE OF ADVANCE HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVES IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA), the largest nursing organization in the U.S., urges all members to lead by example in a national campaign April 16, 2010 to build awareness of the importance of completing “advance directives” for personal health care. ANA joins dozens of national, state, and community organizations in its strong support of the 3rd annual National Healthcare Decisions Day.

“Advance care planning is something that we in the nursing community wholeheartedly endorse,” stated ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, RN, MSN, CNOR, “and I cannot think of a better way to educate patients on the benefits of this judicious practice than by leading the way ourselves. By taking the time to consider our own wishes with regard to potential healthcare directives, we will be better equipped to answer questions and assist patients in completing their own advance directives. I urge nurses everywhere to have an open, honest dialogue with their patients, to encourage them to express their wishes regarding future healthcare matters. ”

National Healthcare Decisions Day was created to ensure that all adults with decision-making capacity in the United States have the information and opportunity to communicate and document

their healthcare decisions. The objectives of NHDD are to provide much-needed information to the public, reduce the number of tragedies that occur when a person's wishes are unknown, and improve the ability of healthcare facilities and providers to offer informed and thoughtful guidance about advance healthcare planning to their patients.

Comprehensive tools for educating the public, reaching out to your communities, and collaborating with other healthcare organizations on this important initiative can be found at www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.

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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 constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. 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.

