(Lead RN places RN's lamp and lights candle) **Caution if oxygen is in use nearby**

The Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard would like to thank the family, friends, and colleagues of _____ for inviting us here today to help celebrate (his/her) life, and nursing career. Nursing is a calling, a lifestyle, and a way of living. The nurses who are gathered here today honor our colleague _____, as (he/she) will not only be remembered for (his/her) years of service, but by the difference (he/she) has made during those years, just by stepping into people's lives and creating special moments.

(insert personal info shared by family as able)

We now invite any fellow nurses here today to stand in honor of _____ (while we read the Nightingale Pledge/Poem- if reading pledge/poem).

(Poem or Pledge is read here)

(Have nurses in attendance sit following pledge/poem)

(light our candles from the RN's lamp after pledge) - if using more than 1 candle

As a nurse, _____ brought comforting moments to each one of (his/her) patients, becoming a shining light in moments of darkness. The bright shining light of the Nightingale lamp represents this same comfort.

The Nightingale lamp was the lamp of Florence Nightingale, the original pioneer of Nursing, who served as a beacon of comfort and compassion and with unwavering devotion throughout her service during the Crimean War and beyond. This lamp is an infinite symbol which mirrors that same devotion to those who are called to serve the profession. Perhaps she knew that the light she carried would go on shining into the future; shining through nurses like _____, who embodied those qualities.

(nurse 1 picks up the lamp) "Nurse _____, please report for duty" (pass the lamp and repeat two more times)

Nurse _____, you have served your profession with dignity, integrity, and compassion. You have been relieved of your Earthly duties and your nursing brothers and sisters will take it from here.

(extinguish honoree's lamp then present to family) "On behalf of the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard, and in honor of _____, we present to you (his/her) Nightingale Lamp" ….OR "Tribute Rose"

(exit, carrying our still lit candles) - if using more than 1 candle

The Nightingale Pledge

I pledge before my colleagues and those here assembled:

To conduct my nursing practice with integrity and compassion, and to uphold these fundamental principles of my discipline;

To care, and to keep caring in the forefront of all other professional pursuits;

To advocate for patients' rights to ethical, equal, and quality care;

To honor the boundaries of the privileged trust inherent in the nurse-patient relationship, and keep in confidence all personal information entrusted thereof;

To respect the uniqueness of each individual and provide care that honors the value of diversity, and allows the voices of the poor, elderly, and socially disenfranchised to be heard and understood;

To collaborate with our colleagues in the other healthcare disciplines to facilitate coordinated, patient-centered, and cost-effective care;

To advance the nursing profession in research, practice, teaching, and administration;

To practice life-long learning, recognizing that effective care is born of knowledge, understanding, and personal awareness;

To these ends, I do hereby commit all my professional endeavors.

She/He was There

When a calming, quiet presence was all that was needed, She/He was there.

In the excitement and miracle of birth or in the mystery and loss of life, She/He was there.

When a silent glance could uplift a patient, family member or friend, She/He was there.

At those times when the unexplainable needed to be explained, She/He was there.

When the situation demanded a swift foot and sharp mind, She/He was there.

When a gentle touch, a firm push, or an encouraging word was needed, She/He was there.

To witness humanity—its beauty, in good times and bad, without judgment, She/He was there.

To embrace the woes of the world, willingly, and offer hope, She/He was there.

And now that it is time to be at the Greater One's side, She/He **is** there.