

Living Tribute

Caution if oxygen is in use nearby

(Lead RN places RN lamp and lights the candle) (Note: Do not light if nurse is on oxygen.)

(Reader 1) The Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard would like to thank Nurse _____, his/her family, friends, and colleagues 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 you, Nurse _____, as you will be remembered for your years of service, and the difference you made during those years, just by stepping into people's lives and creating special moments. Your caring heart, compassion, guidance, support and medical knowledge have been a blessing to the nursing profession and professional nursing practice. You gave comfort where there was pain, courage where there was fear, hope where there was despair, and acceptance when the end was near. Always with a gentle touch of tenderness, patience, and love.

Nurse _____, the white rose symbolizes all that nursing stands for, comfort, kindness, gentleness, courage, and unwavering devotion to duty. We present this in appreciation of being our colleague.

(Reader 2) We now invite any fellow nurses here today to stand in honor of Nurse _____ while we read the Nightingale Pledge/Poem. (Read pledge or poem, have them sit after the reading)

(Reader 3) Nurse _____, as a nurse, you brought comforting moments to each one of your 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 the same devotion to those who are called to serve the profession. This light has been carried on by nurses like you, who embody those qualities.

This lamp symbolizes knowledge and is the light of your nursing career. Nurse _____, we present this lamp to you in honor of your contributions to the profession of nursing. (Walk to the honoree and then blow out the candle right before you present the lamp.) Though your nursing tasks are complete, they will never be forgotten. It has been the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard's privilege to express our respect for you as a nurse and our gratitude for the care you have given others. Thank you for letting us honor you today.