



WISCONSIN NURSES
HONOR GUARD

WNHG Newsletter September 2025

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A Season of Gratitude and Growth

As autumn settles in and the leaves begin their colorful display, we at the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard are filled with gratitude—for the service of our nurses, the dedication of our volunteers, and the continued growth of our mission. This year has been extraordinary, and together we are on track for a record year of honoring nurses with our tributes.

In this issue, you'll find important updates, including details about our **upcoming Celebration Summit in Pewaukee this October**—an event we hope you'll join us for as we gather to connect, learn, and celebrate. You'll also find a reminder that this is the **last chance to share your voice in our survey**. Your input helps guide us as we grow, and we are deeply thankful for every response.

As the season of reflection and gratitude unfolds, we look forward to all the ways we will continue to honor and uplift the legacy of nursing together. Thank you for being such an important part of this journey.

LAST CHANCE – WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Our Honor Guard thrives because of volunteers like you. So far, 148 of our 369 members have served this year—40%! Imagine the impact if even more stepped in.

We know life is busy, but every bit of participation matters. Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey. Your feedback will shape our future and strengthen our mission.

 [Take the Survey](#)



New Pin Design!

Our current logo pin is out of stock, but a new design is on the way!

Based on your feedback, the refreshed pin will be smaller and feature just the logo—no wording, no background. The new pins are expected to arrive in about 6 weeks and will be priced lower than the current version.

Watch our website in October for the latest details and ordering information.

S.E. CELEBRATION SUMMIT IN PEWAUKEE!

You're Invited – Fall 2025 WNHG Summit!

We are thrilled to invite **all members** to our Fall 2025 Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard Summit for Southeastern Wisconsin on **October 18, 2025—11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

📍 **Location:** The Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs), Pewaukee, WI

📍 **Meeting Rooms:** Woodland B,C,D

Whether this is your first summit or you've joined us before, we'd love to see you there!

At the summit, we will:

- ◆ Share our history, mission, and current stats
- ◆ Enjoy lunch together and network
- ◆ Review tribute and uniform details (great for new members or refreshers!)
- ◆ Explore marketing and growth ideas
- ◆ Shop for pins, lamps, decals, and pick up supplies like roses and business cards

🎉 **Cost: Attendance is FREE for all members!**

To reserve your spot, simply purchase a **\$25 refundable ticket**.

Attend → You'll get your \$25 back

No-show → Your ticket helps cover food costs

(If you need to cancel, please do so at least 2 weeks before the event so we can adjust our headcount.)

Your support keeps our mission strong, and we can't wait to gather together.

👉 **Reserve your spot here:** [Fall WNHG Summit – Register Now](#)

We look forward to seeing you in October!



Shining a Light: Honoring Nurses with Consistency and Care

Every tribute we perform as part of the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard is a chance to honor a fellow nurse's life, service, and dedication. To make sure every ceremony reflects the same respect and compassion, we're sharing some important reminders from member feedback.

To uphold the dignity of each tribute, all members are asked to follow these practices:

- **Final Call to Duty:** The honoree's name should be spoken **three times only**. Limiting this to 3 mentions of the honoree's name helps keep it powerful and solemn without becoming overwhelming. Having too many voices can actually dilute the impact, even though we understand everyone would like to do this. (e.g. You would never be called to a task SIX times.)
- **Reading:** Either the *Nightingale Pledge* or the poem "*She Was There*" should be read during the service. Although both are truly beautiful and unique, we ask that only one be read to keep the service from feeling too long or repetitive for the families. They are the reason we are there, it's not about us, or our feelings about the readings.
- **Lamp Ceremony:** If every nurse carries a lit lamp. The **only lamp that is extinguished** is the honoree's. All other lamps remain lit as we recess, symbolizing that their light continues to shine through us. **You can just use one lamp for the honoree and that is extinguished at the end of the final call.**
- **Gift to the Family:** Present a **lamp as the keepsake gift** until your supply is gone. Once lamps are no longer available, present a **white rose**.

By following these guidelines, we help ensure that every tribute across Wisconsin honors the same standard of dignity, compassion, and care. Our schedulers share with families what to expect, so it's important that our actions match what we've promised. Remember, we are a small—but meaningful—part of the family's grieving journey. They may be tired, emotional, or overwhelmed, and our role is to focus on supporting the nurse's family and their experience, allowing them to feel seen, cared for, and respected.

Your dedication brings comfort to families and reflects the heart of our mission. Even if you do not have a speaking part during the service, as a support nurse your presence is still very important—just by being in uniform you are a comfort for the families.

Thank you for serving with such grace and commitment. Every lamp we carry and every rose we present is a symbol of the care, pride, and respect we hold for our colleagues.

★ Make a Difference – Even If You Can't Attend Services!

Be an Advocate / Ambassador



Talk to funeral homes, hospices, or churches



Present at work or community events



Share and like our posts on social media



Encourage donations (optional, appreciated!)

Become a Scheduler



Collect service details and enter them into SignUp Genius



Send invitations and monitor signups



Post service updates on Facebook



One-on-one training provided!

Join us today: info@winurseshonorguard.com

Every effort counts – help us honor nurses and expand our reach!

Geographic Distribution—For those who like data...This is how we grow!

Purple pins (members): Spread widely across Wisconsin, with concentrations in central, western, and northern parts of the state, as well as extending into parts of Minnesota and northern Illinois.

Red pins (services): Densely clustered in southern and southeastern Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Kenosha, Madison areas), with additional clusters in central Wisconsin and along the Mississippi River corridor.

Patterns Observed

High Service Density in the South & East: There is a heavy concentration of red pins (services) in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, and Madison areas. This matches higher population density and likely a larger number of healthcare institutions.

Membership Spread vs. Service Demand

Purple pins are distributed more evenly across rural areas, while services are concentrated in urban and suburban areas. This suggests that while we have broad volunteer presence, actual service activity is driven by population hubs.

Underserved Areas

Northern Wisconsin shows significant member presence (purple), but relatively few service markers (red). This could mean fewer requests for services in those areas—or potential opportunity for growth if awareness expands.

Overlap Zones

Central Wisconsin (around Wausau, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids) shows good overlap between members and services, suggesting a balance of need and volunteer availability.

Insights

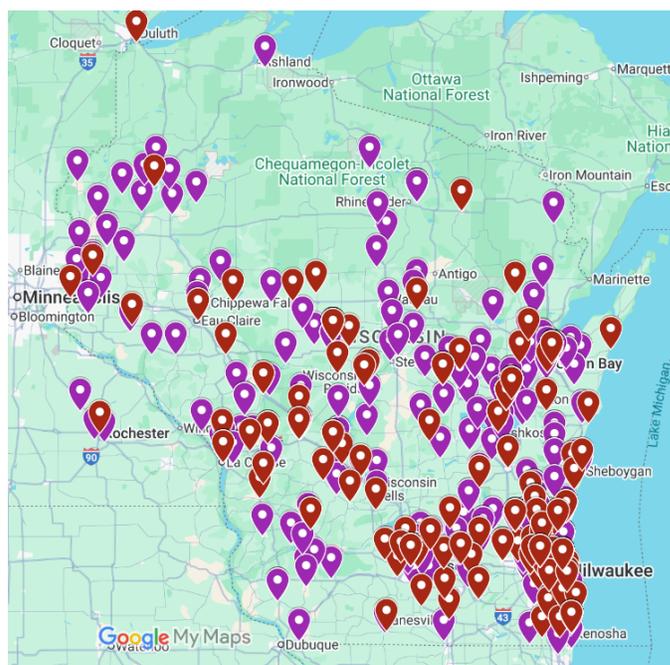
Capacity vs. Demand: Services (red) are concentrated where population is highest, while members (purple) provide wide coverage, potentially allowing flexibility to support less dense areas if needed.

Growth Opportunity: Northern Wisconsin and western parts of the state may represent areas to increase service awareness or expand partnerships.

Strong Foundation: The southern half of Wisconsin is well covered, with both high membership and strong service activity, ensuring availability and responsiveness.

Membership & Service Snapshot

- Statewide reach: Members are located across Wisconsin, ensuring coverage in every region.
- High demand areas: Most services occur in southern and southeastern Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Madison, Kenosha).
- Balanced region: Central Wisconsin shows a strong match between members and services.
- Growth potential: Northern regions have strong membership but fewer service requests, offering room to expand awareness.



New Members! (July-August) Welcome to WNHG!

We sincerely welcome all our new members and hope to see them at a service soon!



Brittany Leising	Tammy Petersen	
Shannon Raikowski	Sarah Kanable-Smith	
Jill Lancelle	Michelle Becker	
Martha Gleisner	Corie Furuseh	Char Kiesling
Jalean Larson	Tina Gerovac-Lavasseur	Robine Ihde
Michelle Peterson	Ying LaCourt	Paula Lucey
Diane Hart	Annette Fisk	Ann Tomal
Sue Galoff	Amy Miller	Christy Georgeson
Amy Spadoni	Carolyn Aderman	Jan Murray-Schmidt
Michelle Young	Madison Dolesy	Joan Price



WISCONSIN NURSES HONOR GUARD

Honoring those who have dedicated their lives to the profession of nursing.

REPEAT ARTICLE!

[Home](#) [Request a Service](#) [Volunteer With Us](#) [Donation Options](#) [Honor Wall](#) [Military Nurse Tributes](#) [Printable Handouts](#) [In the News](#)
[Contact Us](#) [Member Resources](#)

Touring the Website! Every member should know how to find this information!

Our website is your “one-stop” shop for everything that you need to be a member of WNHG. From sending friends to volunteer, to requesting services, donating, seeing who we have honored, and finding brochures...this is where you need to be!

Let’s look at a couple features:

Printable Handouts: You have two options on this webpage. You can print a trifold brochure (print as both sides). Or a 1 side, 1 page flyer. Both give all the information you need when you distribute information. It became logistically too hard and time consuming to send brochures/flyers by mail, so we ask that you go ahead and print what you need.

Member Resources: Printable PDF’s of the script, pledge, poem, living tribute script, rose card, and labels. If you scroll down, you can also purchase a car decal , uniform pin, supply of roses, info on ordering a swag pin, lamp information, and logo sticker for the lamp.

Our website should be familiar to you and would be the best place to send any potential volunteers or service requests. www.winurseshonorguard.com

Step Up and Lead: Become a Lead Nurse!

Being a lead nurse during our tributes is a wonderful way to step into a leadership role and make a meaningful impact. If you've participated in a few services and feel comfortable guiding others, we would love to have you lead! It's a chance to help our team run smoothly, support fellow volunteers, and make each tribute a respectful and heartfelt experience. Don't worry about perfection—your willingness, care, and enthusiasm are what truly make a difference. Every lead nurse started somewhere, and this is your opportunity to shine!

REPEAT ARTICLE!

Prior

- Sign up as "Lead" nurse in Sign Up Genius
- Verify you have lamp/rose for family and scripts. Contact the scheduler if you need anything.
- Review the nurses obituary for general information.
- Check the sign up for the personal write up and print for the service. Check with the scheduler if you do not have the write up.

Arrival

- Find the funeral director or contact person and ask about a room for the group to use.
- Look at the environment to determine what you may need and how you will set up for the service. (Is there a table for the lamp, where will we stand, is there a microphone if needed)
- Discuss needs and service details with the funeral director or contact person
- Meet the family and thank them for inviting us. Verify who receives the gift.
- Sign the visitation book "Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard" and leave a card if you have one.
- Greet our members, determine who is reading, and go over the service as a "run through"
- Make sure they understand where we are standing and how we are entering and leaving prior to the service

During and after

- Coordinate the start timing with the funeral director so we are ready to begin on time.
- Help direct the service as needed by offering cues (like a head nod) if members forget something.
- After the service, thank our members and make sure everyone leaves quietly so we don't interrupt the service.
- Leave a box for the lamp if given with the funeral director

Scheduler's Corner

How to Sign Up for a service after you've created an event

Once you've created the event and sent your invites, go back to the Main Sign Up page and choose the sign up you just created. Click the "Sign Up" button for scheduler. Click "Save & Continue". Now check the box that says "Display an alternate name on the sign up". This opens an area for you to fill in your name. (Don't click the "Mark this my default member name".) Phone number above and "Sign Up Now". That is it! :)

Sign Me Up

Sign me up for:

Available Slot	Date (mm/dd/yyyy - CDT)	Phone
Scheduler	Sat., 09/20/2025 2:30pm - 3:30pm	<input type="text"/>

Sign up as: **Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard** (info@winurseshonorguard.com) This isn't me

Display an alternate name on the sign up (like a child or spouse)

By signing up, you agree to the SignUpGenius [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Note: If you wish to get service reminders to your own email, you can log out of our shared account and into your own and sign up there. Otherwise, all reminder notifications go to our general email account for the guard.

Also—Remember to only comment on Facebook in your own account. It looks weird when the honor guard comments on their own post. Make sure you are in your own account before commenting on our posts. :)

Honoring Nurses, Expanding Our Reach: New Rochester Chapter Begins

The Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard is proud to announce the successful launch of a new chapter in Rochester, MN. Our team recently consulted with this group to help them conduct their first tribute at the funeral of a young nurse who tragically lost her life in an ATV accident. Coming together quickly and using our established script, they delivered a heartfelt ceremony honoring her life and career. This new Rochester team will operate as part of our organization, and we encourage anyone with friends in the area to invite them to join. Congratulations Team Rochester! Nurses Honoring Nurses!

Special thanks to Lead Nurse, Melissa Eagle Uhlmann for founding the group and serving as a driving force behind its creation.

Pictured are Deb Perry, Katie Spitzer, Melissa Eagle Uhlmann, Barb Virnig, and Joseph Uhlmann.



FAQS

PLEASE SUBMIT QUESTIONS FOR FUTURE ISSUES!

- **I need to cancel my sign up!** Call or text (DO NOT EMAIL) the Scheduler and/or Lead Nurse ASAP and let them know you need to cancel. (Although, we do expect you to go unless there is a situation like illness that causes you to cancel.) Then go into Sign Up Genius and delete your sign up. You can do this by going into the invite and clicking the X next to your name on the slot. If you have issues with that, let the scheduler know and they can help. If you are able, also email us at info@winurseshonorguard.com. We depend on everyone to let someone know!
- **If someone wants to donate to us, how do they do it?** There is absolutely no expectation that we should or will receive a donation for our tributes. If, however, someone asks about it, you can tell them that it's not expected, but they can go online at www.winurseshonorguard.com and there is a "donate" tab. They will find the information there. If they want a place to mail a donation, you can give them our address, Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard, PO BOX 321, Waukesha, WI 53187-0321. Please ask them to include an email address. We are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit public charity organization.
- **I'm not receiving service invites, what do I do?** There are quite a few email providers that block or put emails from SignUp Genius either into your spam folder, or don't deliver them at all. If you have an email address from hotmail, wi.rr, msn, there is a good chance of this happening. You must correct this yourself. We cannot do anything to help you. There are three methods to fix this.
 1. Contact your email provider and ask them to "white list" all emails from info@signupgenius.com.
 2. Add "Info@signupgenius.com" to your email address book/contact list.
 3. Sign up for a gmail email account. Gmail has not blocked or put emails into spam.
- **Where can I buy my uniform?** You may purchase your uniform from any retailer you wish. Here are the uniform guidelines:
 - White scrub top and pants (brand of your choice)
 - White shoes (nurse style, plain, no high heels)
 - White scrub jacket (not the longer lab coat)
 - White Nurse's Hat (women only- can be purchased at some uniform stores or Amazon)
 - Lamp (see: <https://winurseshonorguard.com/member-resources/>) scroll towards the middle of that webpage for details. You will use your lamp at services. Everyone is also welcome to get a rose at your first service so you have one available if needed.
 - Logoeed WNHG pin is optional. Embroidered logos for some members have been grandfathered options.
 - (Optional) White scrub dress- must be appropriate length and have sleeves. Must wear white hose with it and a lab coat or cape.
 - (Optional) Nurse's Cape (worn only with the white scrub dress) Email jmury581@gmail.com to order \$65 plus shipping. You need to order a clasp too. Purchase at Amazon by searching "cape clasp" or at sewing store.
 - Your scrubs must be plain white (no extra embellishments). Your jacket must be a scrub jacket, not a long lab coat. Brand of these is your choice. We will allow you to use your Nurse's cap from school if it is still white and has no other colors on it. Please wear white socks/hosiery and white undergarments.

Contact Information

Contact us: via email:

info@winurseshonorguard.com

Follow us on Facebook!

Public Page to see tributes: <https://www.facebook.com/winurseshonorguard>

Members ONLY Facebook Pages—Join as many as you wish!

Request to join: Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard Southeastern Reion Members Only:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/501745937852095>

Request to join: WNHG Northern WI Mem-

bers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/288817412590825>

Request to join: Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard Central/Southwest Region Members only:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4418688331525351>

Feel free to post anything of interest on the Member's Only pages! It can be fun things, interesting tidbits, uniform parts you are selling, questions, etc. This page is a place to socially connect!

Board of Directors:

Jon Krueger—Executive Director

Kelly Gronli— Director, Southeast Representative

Kay Kissinger-Wolf— Director, Northwest Representative

Mary Jo Ross-Vounteer Coordinator, Northeast Rep

Jane Hansen— Central Representative

Kristine Wineland— Northeast Representative

Kim Thurk-Southwest Representative

All board members can be contacted by emailing

info@winurseshonorguard.com

Sharing Member Photos:

Please feel free to take photos (as long as everyone is willing) and post them on our member's only Facebook pages. Also please send them to our email :

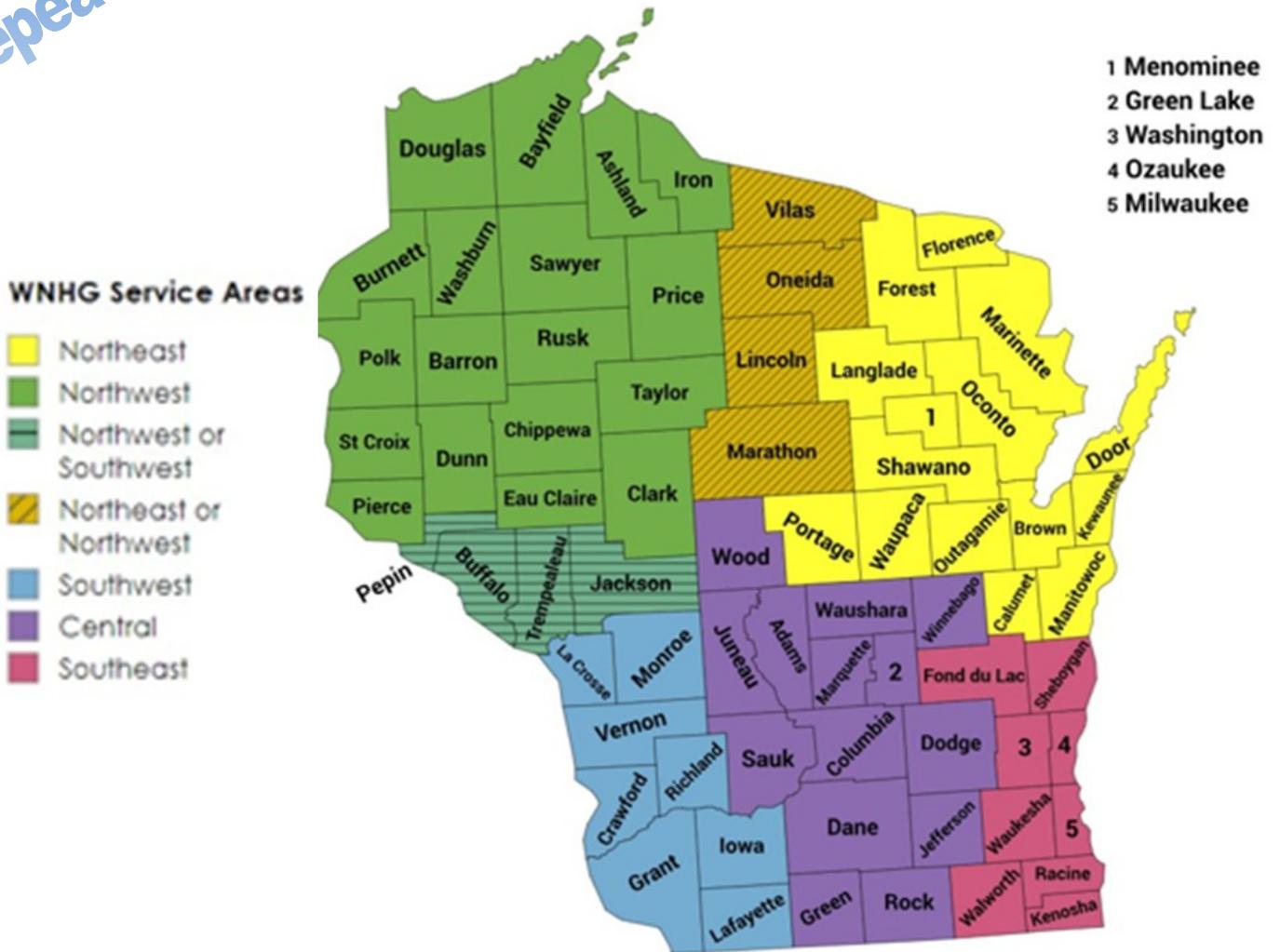
info@winurseshonorguard.com

We love to use our member photos for marketing, etc. Please share your pictures!



Our Regions!

Repeat info!



OUR REGIONS!

Where you reside determines which service invites you get.

Our regions are used to guide us regarding invites to services and track general locations. You are placed in the appropriate region(s) based on your location, but **if you wish to be in additional groups, Just ask!** Note: These are approximate areas. If services are close to another area, we will be sending invites to multiple groups.

As always, if you can't attend please just disregard the invite. No need to reply!

Repeat info!

YOUR 1ST TIME

What to expect

You've taken the leap! You have your uniform! NOW WHAT? Our organization is state-wide and we operate almost exclusively by email. In order to find out about service opportunities in your area, you need to monitor your email address frequently (daily is recommended). Many funeral requests only give us a day or two to secure volunteers so it's very important to keep an eye out for our requests. So, you received a volunteer request and are ready to sign up! It's easy, just click on the "Sign Up" box in the invite. Fill out your name and add your phone number and submit. THAT'S IT. You are signed up! You will receive a reminder two days prior to the event from sign up genius. Now watch your email for any changes or cancellations.

It's the day of the service. You've put on your uniform (you can bring your hat with you), you have your lamp, and are heading to the service site. When you arrive, we expect members to enter quietly and respectfully. Refrain from loud talking and laughing. Keep that respectful decorum. If you are first in the door, just talk to the funeral home staff or others and they will direct you on where to go. We usually have a room to gather in. If others are already present, we are usually quite easy to find in our white uniforms. Be sure and let the "lead" nurse know it's your first time. Yay! :)

When everyone has arrived, the "lead" for the service will do a pre-planning meeting. This will include seeing who would wish to read (not mandatory) and you will do a "mock" run through of the service. The lead nurse will also talk about the order of how you will walk in and where you will stand, and how you will leave. Other nurses can help you with your hat...This is the time to ask questions if you have any.

When it's time to perform our tribute, the lead nurse will gather you in a line and you will walk into the service processional style and stand as directed in pre-planning (usually flanking the casket/urn, etc.). The tribute will begin and will be a moving experience. If you are having a hard time keeping it together, try best you can to stay quiet. (The focus is on the nurse we are honoring and not us.) Definitely okay to put a tissue in your pocket, or sleeve just in case. After presenting the gift to the family, you will walk out processional style. If you decide as a group that everyone will carry a lamp, walk out with your candle on your lamp remaining lit. (Blow it out after you leave the service area.)

As the group leaves, it's important to note that we need to be extremely quiet if the service is ongoing. We are frequently first, so it's vital we do not interrupt the funeral service. We are sometimes anxious to talk about how it went, but we need to keep it down. :)

That's it...it's easy...every service is a bit different due to many factors but since we are nurses, we are very good at adapting to change. It's never dull and always fulfilling to be involved. Now, pat yourself on the back and hang up your uniform for the next time! Know that we sincerely appreciate your willingness to serve!

If you want to watch the training video, here is the link:

https://youtu.be/qzrlpnuojm4?si=2M2OVbdthvE9_mBh