

Nursing is a calling, a way of life. Nursing is a service profession that cannot be lived in isolation. Nurses rely on each other for the synergistic effect of teamwork in our efforts of care giving. It is appropriate that we honor our colleagues not only during their career but also at the end of their life's journey.

If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain
If I can ease one life the aching or cool one pain
or help one fainting robin onto his nest again
I shall not live in vain
~Emily Dickinson~

You will embark on a fair sea,
and at times there will be fair weather, but not always.
You will meet storms and overcome them.
You will take it in turns to steer your boat through fair weather and foul.
Never lose courage.
Safe harbour awaits you...in the end.
- Daphne Du Maurer

The Nightingale Tribute

The Nightingale Tribute honors any registered nurse or licensed practical nurse for their commitment to their patients and for their dedication to nursing. The Nightingale Tribute may be presented by a friend or nurse colleague at a memorial gathering and during any part of the pre or post funeral service. To ensure inclusion of the Nightingale Tribute, it is important to coordinate its presentation and collaborate with the family, funeral home and place of worship. The Nightingale Tribute begins with a lighting of a single white candle while providing a brief synopsis of the nurse's career. A creative reading such as a poem, prayer or prose should follow the career overview. The presenter then places a white rose with the casket or urn, while saying, "(Insert Name), we honor you this day and give you a white rose to symbolize our honor and appreciation for being our nurse colleague." In a show of unity and symbolism, encourage other nurses in attendance to honor the deceased by presenting individual white roses.



The Reading

Nursing is giving of one's self to enhance the lives of others. We join together today to honor (insert name) and his/her lifetime commitment to caring. We acknowledge (Insert First Name) many years as a nurse and know that his/her accomplishments can only be measured in the lives he/she affected through dedication and perseverance.

She Was There

When a calming, quiet presence was all that was needed, She was there.
In the excitement and miracle of birth or in the mystery and loss of life, She was there.
When a silent glance could uplift a patient, family member or friend, She was there.
At those times when the unexplainable needed to be explained, She was there.
When the situation demanded a swift foot and sharp mind, She was there.
When a gentle touch, a firm push, or an encouraging word was needed, She was there.
In choosing the best one from a family's "Thank You" box of chocolates, She was there.
To witness humanity — its beauty, in good times and bad, without judgment, She was there.
To embrace the woes of the world, willingly, and offer hope, She was there.
And now, that it is time to be at the Greater One's side, She is there!



2004, Duane Jaeger, RN, MSN

Background: At the 2005 American Nurses Association (ANA) national convention in Washington, D.C., the ANA House of Delegates passed a resolution called The Nightingale Tribute. Designed and developed by the **Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA)**, The Nightingale Tribute is a structured brief ceremony to honor a deceased nurse and is presented during her/his funeral service. The **Kansas State Nurses Association** gives permission to use any part or all of **The Nightingale Tribute** readings and encourages modifications. The original brochure included a poem written by one of its members, Duane Jaeger, RN, MSN, titled "She Was There." Permission is granted to change the pronoun from "she" to "he."

Maryland Nurses Association
21 Governor's Court, Suite 195
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-2721
Phone: 410-944-5800 -- Fax: 410-944-5802

MD Nurses Association District 8
Phone: 410-706-3932
www.geocities.com/mnadistrict8

The Maryland Nurses Association is the only state-wide, non-profit, multipurpose professional Membership organization for Registered Nurses in Maryland. The primary purpose of MNA is to provide direction and a voice for the profession of nursing.

