

First Oregon Nurse Honor Guard Launched

Background

- Kentucky launched first Nurse Honor Guard (NHG) in 2003;
- The National Nurse Honor Guard Coalition launched in 2011;
- As of 2023, no chapters were registered in Oregon.

Inspiration

- Salem Health (SH) emergency department (ED) clinical nurse, Krista Seaton, passed in September 2023;
- ED colleague Dana Hart learned of Krista's passing while at an ED conference in San Diego;
- The conference introduced the Florence Nightengale honor guard tribute the next day;
- Dana was captivated and inspired to conduct a tribute for Krista;
- Dana received national guidance and conducted Krista's tribute in November 2023 at SH;
- Family and colleagues encouraged Dana to register a chapter.

Program Mission

Our nursing honor guard recognizes men and women who have dedicated their lives to nursing. At the end of life's journey, we pay tribute to those nurses who have devoted their professional lives to caring for the vulnerable. The Nightingale Tribute and a final Call to Duty is performed in their honor.



Tribute on March 15, 2025

- Per Reverend Wallace: "I heard many people remark that your contribution was one of the most meaningful and moving moments from the entire service. Well done!"
- Per guest NP Sherri Atherton: "It was one of the most moving and meaningful tributes she had ever witnessed. She told her family she wanted the Honor Guard at her funeral."
- Per nurse volunteer Jackie Chandler: "I was deeply honored by so many of her family and friends that shared that it meant so much to them."

Methods

- Dana recruited Lori Phillips for program leadership;
- Dana and Lori secured SH Foundation budget to cover direct expenses (brochure printing, capes, lanterns, etc.);
- In July 2024, they sponsored a gathering to recruit nurse volunteers and operational support;
- Nancy Dunn, Clinical Excellence Advisor, offered and is supported by operations to help;
- Dana, Lori and Nancy partnered with SH Volunteer Program to onboard nurse volunteers;
- All volunteer nurses are onboarded with a mock tribute video, a voice over PowerPoint and details on how the "call-to-duty" is done using GroupMe;
- Program brochures were distributed to funeral homes in Feb 2025.

Results

- The SNHG now has 22 volunteer nurses;
- The first tribute was performed on March 15, 2025.

Implications for Practice

- Every nurse in the state of Oregon deserves this honor either as a living tribute at their hospice bedside or a tribute at their memorial service.
- It is our intention and vision to help build a network of NHG chapters in Oregon.

References

- National Nurse Honor Guard Coalition

Scan QR code to view the Salem Nurse Honor Guard Mock Tribute Video:



Poster Contact

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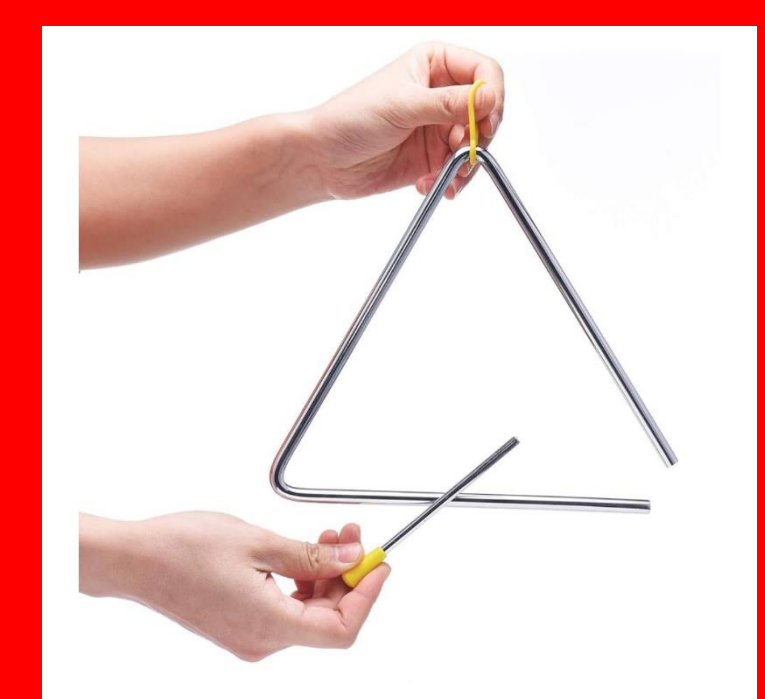
Honor Guard Symbols



The White rose symbolizes purity, innocence, reverence and remembrance. Often used to honor fallen soldiers or individuals with a high level of respect.



The Nightingale Lamp symbolizes the light and hope that nurses bring to their patients, and the nursing profession. It's used in honor guard ceremonies to honor nurses who have died.



The ringing of the bell is a time-honored signal used as a tolling bell or call to duty. In the nurse honor guard, the ringing of the chime is used for roll call. When there is no answer, we officially release them of their nursing duties.

Acknowledgements

Salem Health Foundation, Salem Health Volunteer Program, Salem Health Clinical Excellence Team

Nurse Volunteers: Britni Young, Brittaini Hawthorne, Cris Hatzenbihler, Dana Hart, Elizabeth Brown, Ginger O'Reilly, Jackie Chandler, Jennifer Chanthalangsy, Katie King, Kelly Peterson, Kelly Bodnarchuk, Kristie Lawrence, Lisa Burk, Lisa Haddock, Lori Erni, Lori Phillips, Lorna Dryden, Mindy Close, Melissa Bosvert, Nancy Dunn, Tami Wheeldon, Taylor Sherbrick.