



Salem Nurse Honor Guard

22 Founding Nurses of the Salem Nurse Honor Guard

Dana Hart, BA, RN, CEN | Co-Founder, Salem Nurse Honor Guard

I became passionate about the Nurse Honor Guard when a colleague of mine passed away and I wanted to honor her and her work as a nurse. I then wanted to extend this honor to all nurses who have served. I believe in my heart nurses are heroes and it is time to honor them. I have worked as a nurse for nearly 30 years. Almost all of it in the emergency room. It is a privilege to honor all those nurses who have sacrificed so much of their lives to help others.



Lori Phillips, BA, RN, CRNI | Co-Founder, Salem Nurse Honor Guard

Dana Hart asked if I would be interested in helping her start up a nurse honor guard in Salem. I really loved the whole idea of honoring nurses and helping families. I worked as a nurse's aide for 4 years, and as an RN for 40 years. My most meaningful experience as a nurse was the four years I spent working with the Navajo and Hopi Indians in Arizona. It was very rewarding and enlightening. I spent 30 years of my nursing career with Salem Hospital working in Home Health and Outpatient Wound Care & Infusion.



Nancy Dunn, MS, RN

I learned about the nurse honor guard program in July 2024 from co-founders Dana and Lori. I knew immediately that I wanted to honor my nursing colleagues in a meaningful way that acknowledges their compassion for the vulnerable and helps families grieve their legacy in a meaningful way. I have been an RN for 49 years, mostly coaching front line interprofessional clinical providers in Lean, evidence-based practice, research and collaborative decision-making. The highlight is the research we did on healthcare worker happiness. It has resulted in replication across the nation and has spread in our community as well.



Lisa Burk, BSN, RN, CEN

I joined the Oregon Nurse Honor Guard inspired by a fellow nurse' passing. Honoring nurses who have spent their life as a nurse is truly deserving of a tribute. With 40 years in nursing, starting as an LVN and advancing to RN as my children grew, I primarily worked in the ED. I found a satisfying career helping the vulnerable, mentoring nurses and improving practice by participating in professional organizations and promoting healthcare legislation and policies.

**Elizabeth Brown, BSN, RN, CNOR**

I discovered the National Nurse Honor Guard on social media and was struck by the beauty of honoring colleagues upon their passing. Salem Health solicited volunteers for the Salem Nurse Honor Guard, and I applied. I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to nurses who have dedicated their lives to serving others. For eighteen years I worked in many roles as a pediatric orthopedic nurse, bringing joy and healing to countless young lives. Currently I am serving as an operating room nurse, inspired by a desire to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

**Catherine "Katie" King BSN, RN, CWCN**

When Lori Phillips told me about the Nurse Honor Guard I immediately wanted to participate. I am the 3rd generation of nurses in my family, starting with my great aunt who was a nurse in WWI. I am privileged to honor all nurses for their dedication to the profession and support their families by showing our gratitude for their loved ones' nursing career at their final tribute. I have been an RN for 46 years, the last 34 with Salem Health. I worked float pool, home care and currently in the Advanced Wound Care clinic for the past 27 years.

**Lorna Dryden, AD, RN**

Nursing as a profession has meant a lot to me since I started working in health care over 40 years ago. I am so grateful for this profession that allows me to work with dedicated people while allowing me time for family. The Nurse Honor Guard is a wonderful way to show respect to those that have dedicated their lives to nursing. I feel that as a group we can have a huge impact on grieving families and hopefully bring them closer to peace. I started as a CNA then LPN, eventually obtaining my RN 1997.



Kelly Peterson, AD, RN

I am proud to serve with the Honor Guard after witnessing the tribute of a dear friend's passing in 2023, Krista Seaton. This service was organized by Dana Hart, a mutual friend. I was so touched. I asked Dana how I could be a part of this legacy and here we are! I currently reside in Salem, OR with my husband and 5-year-old son. I obtained my associate's degree in nursing at Lane Community College in 2002 in Eugene, OR.

**Ginger O'Reilly, BSN, RN, CMSRN**

I am truly honored to serve in the SNHG, where we pay homage to the nurses who have gone before us. Nursing is a profound calling on one's life. When that life ends, it is our solemn duty to recognize that nurse's service and legacy to the nursing profession. I have worked as an RN on numerous units/levels of care at SH for the past 25 years. In addition, I serve as an RN preceptor, volunteer for No One Dies Alone at SH, and volunteer for the American Red Cross.

**Britni Young BSN, RN**

I became interested in the SHNG when I saw a post on the daily dose. When you work on the front lines through a global pandemic, you really come to appreciate your colleagues and the importance of your career. I thought, what a beautiful way to honor those that have dedicated their lives to nursing. I worked for seven years in orthopedics and am currently working on Mother/Baby, where I have been for the last three.

**Tami Wheeldon, MSN-Ed, RN, CEN**

I first learned about the Nurse Honor Guard while attending a National Emergency Nurse Association (ENA) Conference. I was so excited to hear that Salem was going to have our very own Salem Nurse Honor Guard and knew I wanted to be a part of it. I am passionate about nursing and feel that it is an amazing career. I've worked as an emergency/trauma nurse for 27 years and becoming a member of the Nurse Honor Guard provides a pathway to celebrate individual nurses and honor the nursing profession.



Melissa Bosvert MSN, RN CMSRN, CCFA

Ever since I entered the world of Nursing 17 years ago, I have felt a deep calling to always give more, do more. I have held many different roles as a Nurse from working at the bedside, to educating, or leading a team. When I learned of the Honor Guard there was no doubt in my mind that it was something I wanted to be a part of. The opportunity to stand and honor those who have also dedicated their lives to the improvement of others was not only a privilege but a blessing. I am thankful for the opportunity.



Jennifer Chanthalangsy, BSN, RN

I love the idea of honoring nurses and acknowledging the nursing profession in such a considerable way. I have worked as an RN for over 20 years in my local community, all within the hospital setting. Being part of the Nurse Honor Guard allows me to further support the profession and nurses that have given so much of their lives to help others.



Lori Hoekstra Erni, RN, CCRN, CPAN

I became interested in the nurse honor guard after attending a presentation. I was struck by how the nurse is honored and respected for her years of service. I recently had a former classmate pass away. She had been a nurse for nearly 40 years. As I reflect on my many years of service and how much nursing is an integral part of who I am and who all nurses are, it is imperative to remember the lives of those who have passed. Our nursing careers have touched and impacted many lives.



Mindy Close, MSN, RN, CWOCN

Nurse Honor Guard has been a mission that I connected with shortly after COVID started. I have followed the National Nurse Honor Guard Facebook page and interacted with other nurses across the nation while they honored our fellow colleagues. Having a Nurse Honor Guard here in Oregon has provided the opportunity to put the Servants Heart to work and honor our colleagues on a more personal level. Being a nurse is a calling and a passion; participating in the Nurse Honor Guard mission is just an extension of that passion.



Kristie Lawrence, MSN, RN, NE-BC

Watching the video of the SH Nurse Honor Guard honoring a SH RN who passed, deeply moved me. It was at that moment I knew I wanted to be part of this remarkable group. I've been a nurse for 34 years, working in various specialties including IMCU, ICU, Labor and Delivery, Surgical Services, Interventional Radiology and Med-Surg. Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of learning from the incredible nurses I've worked alongside. Together, we've shared countless moments of laughter and tears. To honor those who came and passed before me in such a meaningful way is an incredible honor.



Chris Hatzenbihler BSN, RN

I learned of the Nurse Honor Guard from my friend, Lori. I felt this would be a wonderful way to honor those that had dedicated their lives to nursing. I have been a nurse for 50 years and always felt it was a calling for me. I worked Med-Surg for the first part of my career. I then went to the wound care center when the hospital started that department until my retirement.



Kelly Bodnarchuk, MBA, BSN, CENP

The moment I learned about the Nurse Honor Guard and its tribute to the nursing profession, I knew I wanted to be part of it—a beautiful way to honor nurses by ceremoniously discharging them from duty at life's end. I earned my BSN from the University of Alberta in 1995 and began my career in cardiovascular intensive care in Arizona. Professional Governance sparked my passion for leadership, leading to 20 years in leadership roles in Critical Care. I joined Salem Health in 2020 and became the Magnet-Pathway Program Director in 2023, continuing my commitment to nursing excellence.



Lisa Haddock, BSN, RN

I first heard of the NHG from Lisa Burk and was immediately interested in being part of such a great organization! Nurses spend their entire career giving to their community, sacrificing precious family time to do so and dealing with the emotional toll some days have. This is an amazing way to acknowledge that sacrifice. I have been an RN for 22 years, worked in ER all 22 years, either full-time or on call. I have also worked in critical care, House Supervisor and risk and compliance. I have lobbied for suicide awareness, prevention and education.



Brittaini Hawthorne, MPH, RN, CWOCN

In my eyes, nursing is not just a profession, it is a way of life and I am truly honored to be a part of the Salem Nurse Honor Guard. I have been a registered nurse for 10 years and certified as a wound, ostomy, continence nurse for five years. I have been with Salem Health for only 16 months. Originally from Pennsylvania, I have lived in Oregon for 20 years. Prior to Salem, I have nursing experience working in ICU, orthopedics, home health and long-term/skilled care as a ADON. When I'm not having the best time working with wound and ostomy patients, I am out in nature meditating or taking my blue healer, Pepper, on a hike. I have four children that I love dearly and keep me plenty busy.

**Jackie Chandler, BA, RN, CNN**

Over the decades of being in nursing, many of my mentors have passed. I have always been saddened that there was no way to honor their lives in their calling. I have been aware of the Nurse Honor Guard on a National level and wanted to join in Oregon. I began as a CNA, then LPN, ADN and BA in Management. I have been very fortunate to have had amazing experiences. They included Cardiac Care, Intensive Care Nephrology, Management, Dialysis, Teaching, Critical Care and outpatient Surgery in my 50-year career. I was active in ANNA and am a CNN.

**Taylor Sherbrick, BSN, RN, CNOR**

Life is full of challenges, but I find strength in the belief that even the smallest act of kindness can make the world brighter for someone each day. For years working in the Operating Room, I've had the profound privilege of being present with people at their most vulnerable moments. After hearing about the SNHG, their mission resonated deeply with my heart. Honoring and recognizing nurses' unwavering dedication and lifelong contributions is a profound privilege. The SNHG allows me to celebrate the selfless commitment of the nursing community, ensuring legacies are remembered by the families and lives they have touched.

