

## IN HONOR & RECOGNITION...



*At the 2005 American Nurses Association (ANA) national conference in Washington, DC, the ANA House of Delegates passed a resolution called The Nightingale Tribute. Developed by the Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA), The Nightingale Tribute is a structured brief ceremony to honor deceased nurse and is presented during his/her funeral or memorial 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 the poem, "She Was There", written by one of its members, Duane Jaeger, RN, MSN. Permission is granted to change the pronoun to make it gender appropriate.

One gift, above all others  
God gives to us to treasure  
One that knows no time, no place  
And one gold cannot measure  
The precious, poignant tender gift  
Of Memory...that will keep  
Our dear ones ever in our hearts  
Although God gives them sleep  
It brings back long remembered things  
A song, a word, a smile  
And the world's a better place...  
because  
We had them for awhile!  
-Author Unknown-



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The ONA is a professional organization representing a community of nurses across all specialties and practice settings.

## THE NIGHTINGALE TRIBUTE

A tribute to any Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse for their commitment and dedication upon the end of life's journey.



## IN TRIBUTE

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The Nightingale Tribute honors any registered or licensed practical nurse for their commitment to their patients and 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 that is appropriate to the nurse's religious tradition. To ensure inclusion of The Nightingale Tribute, it is important to coordinate its presentation with the family, funeral home and place of worship.

The Nightingale Tribute begins with the 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 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/He Was There\*

When a calming, quiet presence was all that was needed, She/He was there.

In the excitement and miracle of birth or in the mystery and loss of life, She/He was there.

When a silent glance could uplift a patient, family member or friend, She/He was there.

At those times when the unexplainable needed to be explained, She/He was there.

When the situation demanded a swift foot and sharp mind, She/He was there.

When a gentle touch, a firm push, or an encouraging word was needed, She/He was there.

In choosing the best one from a family's Thank-You box of chocolates, She/He was there.

To witness humanity's beauty, in good times and bad, without judgment, She/He was there.

To embrace the woes of the world, willingly, and offer hope, She/He was there.

And now, that it is time to be at the Greater One's side, She/He was there.

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*\*See reverse side for more information.*

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 our career, but also at the end of their life's journey.



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

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