

**Oklahoma Nurses Association
2005 House Of Delegates**

Resolution

Subject: The Nightingale Tribute

Introduced By: ONA Board Of Directors

SUMMARY: Nursing is a calling, a way of life. Nursing is a service profession that can not 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 life's journey.

The Nightingale Tribute is a way of honoring our colleagues at the end of life's journey. The Tribute has been fully developed and piloted by the Kansas State Nurses Association. A brochure describing *The Nightingale Tribute* for use by funeral homes and those presenting the Tribute is available free online at <http://www.nursingworld.org/snas/ks/index.htm> The purpose of bringing this action report to the ONA HOD is to encourage the use of *The Nightingale Tribute* in Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, it is widely known that nurses make a difference in people's lives; and

WHEREAS, it is not only relationships with patient/client's that define, nursing practice, but our relationships with each other as colleagues; and

WHEREAS, families of nurses live the nursing experience; and

WHEREAS, Nursing's Agenda for the Future states that "Nurses promote a healthy environment of respect and caring for one another"; and

WHEREAS, the increasing number of aging nurses will be accompanied by increasing deaths; and

WHEREAS, a funeral or memorial service is the usual venue for honoring the life of the deceased; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Oklahoma Nurses Association shall:

1. Promote the availability of the Nightingale Tribute within Oklahoma
2. Celebrate the Nightingale Tribute at each House of Delegates
3. Work with the Funeral Home Director's Association to make this tribute available at funerals or memorial services of deceased nurses

Based on the 2005 ANA House of Delegates Resolution "The Nightingale Tribute" by Janice Jones, Kansas State Nursing Association.

BACKGROUND: “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 giving care. It is appropriate that we honor our colleagues not only during their career, but also at the end of life’s journey.” The Nightingale Tribute was developed by the Kansas State Nurses Association in 2003 to honor a nurses lifetime contribution at the time of their funeral or memorial service.

This tribute is similar to those of the military, police, firefighters, Eastern Star and others organizations to honor the contributions of fallen colleagues. The Nightingale tribute begins with a short synopsis of the nurse’s career, followed by a creative reading, “She was There.” A white rose is placed with the nurse after the reading and the statement: “We honor you this day and give you a white rose to symbolize our honor and appreciation for being our colleague. “

The American Nurses Association initiated this new tradition to honor deceased colleagues. During the 2005 House of Delegates, the first annual Nightingale Tribute was conducted. Each CMA President read the names of members deceased during the past year. The room was absolutely silent, hundreds of names were read and there were few dry eyes!

ANA will work with the Funeral Home Director’s Association to make this tribute available to any nurse. At the state level, we will be working with our region presidents to help establish a process to assure availability in Oklahoma. If you would like to be involved with this special project please let your region president know. We would like to establish this same tradition here in Oklahoma, and call upon you to work with us to make it a reality!

She Was There

When a calming, quiet presence was all that was needed,

He/She was there.

In the excitement and miracle of birth,

He/She was there.

When a silent glance could uplift a patient, family member or friend,

He/She was there.

At those times when the unexplainable needed to be explained,

He/She was there.

When a situation demanded a swift foot and sharp mind,

He/She was there.

When a gentle touch, a firm push, or an encouraging word was needed,

He/She was there.

In choosing the best one from a family’s “Thank You” box of chocolates,

He/She was there.

To witness humanity – it’s beauty, in good times and bad, without judgment,

He/She was there.

To embrace the woes of the world, willingly, and offer hope,

He/She was there.

And now, that it is time to be at the Greater One’s side,

He/She is there.

