



**NURSES HONOR
GUARD OF SOUTH
CAROLINA**

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“As a nurse, we have the opportunity to heal the heart, mind, soul, and body of our patients, their families, and ourselves. They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel.”

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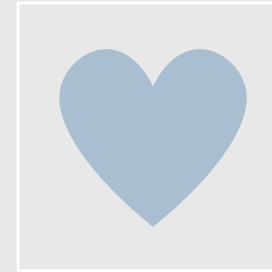
Discussion



The role of the Nurse's
Honor Guard



The significance of
professional legacy



How a ceremonial
tribute can transform
both grief and
remembrance



What is the Nurses Honor Guard?

The Nurses Honor Guard of SC is a dedicated group of volunteer nurses who come together to honor and pay tribute to our fellow nurses as they approach the end of their life's journey or at their memorial/funeral services.

- ❖ Nightengale Tribute
- ❖ Final Call to Duty

We offer our services throughout the state of South Carolina and are a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization.

Tax deductible donations may be made to: Nurses Honor Guard of South Carolina.



The Service

This service is steeped in tradition and is similar to a military tribute and officially releases the nurse from their nursing duties.

The Nurses Honor Guard of South Carolina will:

- ❖ Attend all services wearing the traditional nurse's uniform.
- ❖ Stand guard at the casket/urn/hearse and provide a presence at the services.
- ❖ Recite the Nightingale Tribute at the funeral/memorial service.
- ❖ Present the Florence Nightingale lamp to the family.
- ❖ Perform Last Call to Duty.



The Uniform

- ❖ Formal uniform - The color white signifies cleanliness, honesty, and faith.
- ❖ Nurses Cap – Represents a sense of dignity, dedication and signifies a nurse's knowledge.
- ❖ Nursing Pin – Began with the Maltese Cross a symbol of service used by the Nightengale School of Nursing at St. Thomas Hospital In London. Symbolizes training and readiness of new nurses to serve the community.



Cape

- ❖ Best known through Florence Nightingale and the nurses that served with her during the Crimean War in the 1850s.
- ❖ In 1909, the American Red Cross Nursing Services included a cape as part of their uniform. During WWI the Red Cross Nurses became recognized for wearing their blue capes with the red lining exposed over their shoulder as they tended the wounded.
- ❖ Nurses from the Army and the Navy adopted the cape during WWI.



Florence Nightingale Lamp

The Florence Nightingale Lamp used in the service represents Florence Nightingale who was known as the “Lady with the Lamp.” She earned this title because she would visit soldiers at night with a small lantern in her hand to tend to their injuries during the Crimean War. Her work not only saved many lives but also helped to establish modern professional nursing.

The lantern is a symbol of comfort and courage and of lighting the way to modern, professional nursing.



White Rose

- ❖ Placing a white rose on the casket/urn represents the nurse's dedication to their profession.
- ❖ By adopting the white rose the Nurses Honor Guard shows their appreciation and respect for a fellow nursing colleague.



Bell

- ❖ The Bell of Honor will be tolled at funerals or memorials to officially release the nurse from their earthly nursing duties.
- ❖ This honors and celebrates their dedication to the profession before they move on to something new.



Why Ritual Matters in Grief

- ❖ Validates the nurse's life work.
- ❖ It provides a sense of closure
- ❖ It builds collective memory
- ❖ It supports the bereavement process.
- ❖ Knowledge



Professional Legacy: The Bigger Picture

Professional legacy is not about titles, awards, or years of service. It is about impact—the lives touched, the comfort provided, the advocacy shown when it mattered most. The Nurse's Honor Guard makes that legacy visible.

It tells a story:

- ❖ Of compassion in difficult moments
- ❖ Of resilience in the face of challenge
- ❖ Of dedication to others, often at personal cost for the nurse and their loved ones
- ❖ And importantly, it ensures that story does not end quietly.

A Service to Your Residents and Community

For those of you working in long-term care, assisted living, hospice, or community health settings, this is where the opportunity becomes very real.

- ❖ Imagine what it means for a resident who spent decades caring for others to know that, when their time comes, they too will be cared for in this unique and meaningful way.

Implementing or partnering with a Nurse's Honor Guard offers several benefits:

- ❖ Builds stronger community connections
- ❖ Elevates the culture of respect within your organization
- ❖ It also differentiates your community - Families notice when organizations go beyond standard practices to honor individuals in meaningful ways.

Develop a simple protocol

- ❖ Identify How you will recognize when a resident is a nurse
- ❖ Who contacts the honor guard
- ❖ Where and how the ceremony will take place

Educate your staff and families.

- ❖ Let people know this service exists



Closing Thoughts

I'd like to leave you with this:

- ❖ Every nurse, at some point, has stood at the bedside of someone at the end of life. They've provided comfort, dignity, and presence.
- ❖ The Nurse's Honor Guard simply returns that care. It is nurses saying to one of their own: "We see you. We honor you. Your work mattered."
- ❖ And in doing so, it reminds all of us—whether we are nurses or not—that how we honor people at the end of life says a great deal about what we value in life itself.

How to Request Services

To request our services, please visit our webpage at www.NursesHonorGuard.com

If you are a nurse (RN, LPN, APRN) interested in learning more about becoming a member, just email us at nhgscadmissionsofficer@gmail.com.