

OVERVIEW OF THE NIGHTINGALE TRIBUTE



PURPOSE

The Nightingale Tribute is a ceremony that can be used during a funeral service to honor a registered nurse for his/her commitment to his/her patients and for his/her dedication to nursing.

Florence Nightingale, from *Eminent Women of the Age*, 1868.
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WHY A TRIBUTE

Florence Nightingale, is credited with introducing advanced education into nursing, leading health reform by collecting sound statistical data, establishing standards of sanitation, and promoting hospital administration modernization.

The nursing profession is made up of highly skilled members who use their experience and years of college level science training, in their individual practices, to save lives, as well as make lasting scientific and social contributions to the world. As a distinct scientific profession with its own standards and scope of care, nurses have specialized their practice providing care in over 90 different specialty areas in hospitals, clinics, long-term care and the communities. In addition to the health care field, their expertise and influence will be found in research, technology, education, politics, law, and government.

SUMMARY OF THE SERVICE

CEREMONY

The Nightingale Tribute is offered by a designated friend or nurse colleague. The ceremony is in honor and recognition of the individual's commitment and dedication to science and the practice of nursing.

The suggested ceremony may include:

- ?? the lighting of a white candle;
- ?? a brief summary of the individual's nursing career;

- ?? special readings; and,
- ?? the presentation of a white rose with the casket or urn.

A sample ceremony would proceed as follows:

The Presenter steps forward and lights the white candle, and says:

"We honor and recognize NAME's commitment and dedication to science and the practice of nursing."

READINGS

The Presenter may then provide special readings.

Sample Reading #1

"Nursing is giving of one's self to enhance the lives of others. We join together today to honor NAME and his/her lifetime commitment to caring. We acknowledge his/her nursing practice and know that his/her accomplishments can only be measured in the lives he/she affected through knowledge, dedication and caring."

Sample Reading #2 **She Was There**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To witness humanity — its beauty, in good times and bad, without judgment, She was there.

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

And now, that it is time to be at the Greater One's side, She is there!

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the presenter will say:

"We honor NAME this day and give you a white rose to symbolize our appreciation for the privilege of being your nurse colleague."

Other nurses in attendance may honor the deceased by presenting individual white roses.

*poem
by Emily Dickinson
If I can stop one heart from breaking
I shall not live in vain
If I can ease one life the aching
or cool one pain
or help one fainting robin
onto his nest again
I shall not live in vain.*