



(May 5, 2011)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee

National VA Council, President

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In This Briefing: National Nurses Week ~ May 6th ~ 12th, 2011

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National Nurses Day dates back to 1953 when Dorothy Sutherland of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare sent a proposal to President Eisenhower to declare a "Nurse Day" in October. The proclamation was never made. However, the following year it was observed from October 11th through October 16th, which marked the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's mission to Crimea. A bill for a National Nurse Week was introduced in the 1955 Congress, but no action was taken. In 1972, again another resolution was presented by the House of Representatives to the President, again it did not occur.

January 1974, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) proclaimed that May 12th would be "International Nurse Day", (May 12th being the birthday of Florence Nightingale). The ICU had been celebrating International Nurse Day, as early as 1965. In February (1974), an entire week was designated by the White House as National Nurse Week, President Nixon issued the proclamation.

Finally, after tireless efforts, President Reagan signed a proclamation on March 25th, 1982; proclaiming "National Recognition Day for Nurses" to be May 6th.

So as you can see this week of recognition did not happen overnight. It took persistence and diligence, the same determination is seen across the country as nurses' care for millions of patients on a daily basis. This week is a time to recognize and salute the many contributions that nurses make to our community.

Nursing is a professional skill that encompasses dedication with the ability to serve in a variety of settings. These diverse men and women have a strong commitment to serve others. While we celebrate "Nurse's Week", please take the time to stop and thank your fellow nurses for a job well-done!

At this time, on behalf of the National VA Council, I would like to thank all of the men and women who have dedicated themselves to the art and science of the nursing profession.