



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 6, 2013

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VA Celebrates National Nurses Week May 6-12

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the nation's largest single employer of nurses, joins the American Nurses Association in honoring America's nurses dedicated to saving lives and maintaining the health of millions of individuals during National Nurses Week, May 6-12.

This year's Nurses Week theme is "Nurses: Delivering Quality and Innovation in Patient" and VA health care facilities throughout the country will pay tribute to their 80,000 nurses who are the nursing heroes who care for America's Heroes.

Annually, National Nurses Week begins on May 6, marked as Nurse Recognition Day, and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession. During this week, nurses at the VA Western New York Healthcare System with facilities in Buffalo and Batavia will be honored at the Nursing Excellence Award Ceremony.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs Award for **Excellence in Nursing** is given to a VA nurse or nursing assistant once in their nursing career and recognizes exemplary nursing care given to Veterans and their families. VA Western New York Healthcare System is pleased to announce the 2013 Nursing Excellence recipients.

Amber King, Nursing Assistant at Pine Lodge located in Batavia. Amber resides in Batavia, New York.

Debbie Bassett, Licensed Practical Nurse who works at Batavia. Debbie is a resident of Perry, New York.

Joan Canzoneri, Registered Nurse, who works as a RN Case Manager in the behavioral health clinic at Buffalo, New York. Joan resides in West Seneca, New York.

Lesley Simonian, Registered Nurse, works as the Nurse Recruiter for the VA Western New York Healthcare System. Lesley is a resident of Williamsville, New York.

In addition to these awards, we are pleased to announce the **Hands and Heart Award** recipients. These nurses were nominated by their colleagues for this national award that honors their commitment and compassion to the delivery of excellent patient care. Cheryl Bucciferro, a registered nurse, works in Pine Lodge at Batavia. Cheryl is a resident of Batavia, New York. Sherrie Parish is a registered nurse who works on the IV/PICC line team located in Buffalo. Sherrie resides in North Tonawanda, New York.

National Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, work to improve health care. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long-term care

facilities to the halls of research institutions, state legislatures, and Congress, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is meeting the expanding health care needs of American society and its Veterans.

For more about VA nurses, check the Web at <http://www.va.gov/nursing/>.

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