

2026 National Nurses Week

WHEREAS National Nurses Week, an annual campaign established by the American Nurses Association honors nurses' contributions, dedication, and influence on healthcare, highlighting the professions critical responsibility in creating a healthier and safer environment within the community; and

WHEREAS, this celebration coincides with the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, to honor the outstanding efforts of nurses across the nation working selflessly to ensure the well-being of individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, the nursing workforce is the United States largest healthcare profession, with over 4.7 million registered nurses (RNs) working passionately across doctor's offices, hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and more; and

WHEREAS, despite budget cuts and issues of understaffing leading to longer work and decreased wages, nurses struggle with maintaining their mental health needs while navigating a strenuous work environment and effectively dealing with their patients; and

WHEREAS, in Orange County, to mitigate the impacts nurses have faced in recent years, CalOptima Health approved \$50 million for the Provider Workforce Development Initiative, the largest workforce investment by CalOptima, to strengthen the county's health care workforce and prevent future staff shortages in both medical and behavioral health care; and

WHEREAS, throughout the fast-paced ever-changing healthcare environment nurses continue to display adaptability and empathy towards all individuals they serve regardless of their background; and

WHEREAS, in 1982 President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation on March 25, proclaiming "National Recognition Day for Nurses" to be May 6th to commemorate all the contributions they have made toward improving the healthcare of American citizens; and

WHEREAS Associations such as the National Nurses United have founded chapters within California such as the California Nurses Association as a community of registered nurses noted advocating for the collective voice of RNs in patient care decisions, outlawing dangerous practices such as mandatory overtime, other provisions that are needed protected nurses and patients.

WHEREAS, within Orange County organizations such as Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) and Hoag have been awarded "Magnet designation" from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) demonstrating their excellence in nursing practice and commitment to ensuring their work is held to the highest standard; and

WHEREAS, May 6th - 12th is recognized nationally as National Nurses Week, offering a vital opportunity to raise awareness, on the challenges and sacrifices nurses make daily to ensure the benefit and prosperity of all patients within the American health care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS proclaims the week of May 6th - 12th as National Nurses Week in Orange County. We encourage our community to acknowledge and celebrate the resilience and dedication our nurses hold toward establishing a thriving environment for all within our local community.