

As Network Director, I am so pleased to recognize National Nurses Week, which begins today, May 6th and ends Sunday May 12th, the 193rd anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday.

National Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse and countless ways in which nurses, the largest profession in the VA, work to improve the health of our Veterans. From bedside nursing in our hospitals and long-term care facilities to providing support and services at our Community Based and Outpatient Clinics, daily, VISN 20's nurses provide care and comfort to our patients and their family members.

This year's theme is "Nurses: Delivering Quality & Innovation in Patient Care," and our VISN is one of 21 across the country to join forces to recognize nurses as the backbone of our health care system.

In that spirit, this message is a reminder that each and every nurse is to be commended for their commitment, hard work and dedication. Please take some time this week to thank a nurse, and to learn by their example. For my part, I extend my sincere thanks for your contributions and compassion. You truly embody this year's theme, and have unfailingly demonstrated continuous efforts to advocate and care for our Nation's heroes.

Lawrence H. Carroll
Network Director