



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 9:00am

Department: Health & Human Services

Title: Nurses Week Proclamation

Management Update/Work Session Date: 4/7/26 Audio/Visual aids

Time Required: 10 Minutes Contact: Samantha Andress Phone: x4903

Requested Action: Approve a proclamation declaring May 6-12th, 2026 as Nurses Week in Marion County.

Issue, Description & Background: National Nurses Week was permanently designated by the American Nurses Association in 1993 to be celebrated annually, beginning in 1994, from May 6 through May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday, in recognition of the historical and ongoing contributions of nurses.

Financial Impacts: N/A

Impacts to Department & External Agencies: N/A

List of attachments: Proclamation

Presenter: Carol Heard, Heath Barker, Lauri Beagle, Michael Jackson, Mary Courser, Emily Heleman, Lana Harrington, Cori Broadus

Department Head Signature: TGregg Digitally signed by TGregg Date: 2026.04.22 11:11:44 -07'00'

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR MARION COUNTY, OREGON**

In the matter of proclaiming the week of May 6 –12, 2026, as Nurses Week in Marion County.

PROCLAMATION

This matter came before the Marion County Board of Commissioners at its regularly scheduled public meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, to proclaim May 6th through 12th as Nurses Week in Marion County.

WHEREAS, National Nurses Week was first observed in 1954, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s mission to Crimea, although Nurses Week was not officially proclaimed until 1974; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 the American Nurses Association permanently designated National Nurses Week to recognize the historical and ongoing contributions of nurses. The week is celebrated annually from May 6th, National Nurses Day, through May 12th, International Nurses Day and the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing; and

WHEREAS, nurses serve in a wide range of settings, including hospitals, clinics, schools, long-term care facilities, public health and behavioral health programs, correctional institutions, and community-based services; and their expertise, dedication, and resilience are essential to delivering care, strengthening healthcare systems, and improving the health and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, while this proclamation honors all nurses, we also recognize the nurses serving across multiple Marion County departments. Professionals who work tirelessly and play an essential role in supporting the Sheriff’s Office, Juvenile Department, and the Health & Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, for the above reasons, we invite the citizens of **Marion County** to join us in celebrating May 6-12, 2026, as Nurses Week in Marion County. A time to recognize and honor the compassion, dedication, and tireless efforts of nurses who care for our community every day. Under the theme **“The Power of Nurses,”** we encourage everyone to celebrate the meaningful impact nurses have on our health and well-being, taking this opportunity to show our appreciation for all that they do; now, therefore,

It is hereby proclaimed that the week of May 6 –12, 2026, is Nurses Week in Marion County.



DATED at Salem, Oregon this 6th day of May 2026.

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson _____

Commissioner _____

Commissioner _____

Nurses Week Proclamation May 6–12, 2026

- ▶ Marion County Health & Human Services Department
- ▶ Marion County Juvenile Department
- ▶ Marion County Sheriff's Office

Honoring the Power of
Nurses in Marion County



1954

National Nurses Week was first observed in 1954, marking the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's mission to Crimea.

1993

In 1993, the American Nurses Association officially designated May 6–12 as National Nurses Week.

1982

In 1982, the American Nurses Association formally acknowledged May 6th as National Recognition Day for Nurses.

Florence Nightingale's birthday, marks the final day of Nurses Week and reminds us of the principles she championed: care, compassion, and a commitment to improving healthcare for all.

12 May

HONORING THE LEGACY OF NURSING



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AND THE CRIMEAN WAR

Florence Nightingale, often considered the “founder of modern nursing,” transformed patient care during the Crimean War (1853–1856) in Eastern Europe. While leading a team of nurses to care for wounded soldiers, she discovered unsanitary conditions, limited medical supplies, and high death rates.

Recognizing that poor hygiene and lack of proper nutrition were major issues, she introduced basic but effective changes. These included regular handwashing, improved food preparation practices, and more consistent patient care. As a result of these improvements, the mortality rate decreased significantly within just a few months.





- ▶ Nurses Week is a time to pause and recognize the unwavering dedication of nurses.
- ▶ It is an opportunity to express gratitude for their compassion, resilience, and daily contributions.

WHY THIS WEEK MATTERS



- ▶ Over 5 million registered nurses are working across the United States.
- ▶ Nurses serve in hospitals, clinics, schools, long-term care, public health and behavioral health programs, corrections facilities, and other community-based settings.
- ▶ They play a critical role in addressing health disparities and evolving healthcare systems.



THE ROLE OF NURSES TODAY



SHERIFF'S OFFICE NURSES





JUVENILE DEPARTMENT NURSES



Marion County
OREGON
JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES NURSES



Marion County
OREGON
Health & Human Services



Thank you to all nurses for your unwavering commitment and the difference you make every day.

THANK YOU

