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**CONTACT:**

Douglas A. Etter  
*Manager, Public & Community Relations*  
717-272-6621, ext: 6079  
Douglas.Etter@va.gov

**FOR  
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**Lebanon VA Medical Center Celebrates National Nurses Week May 6-12**

LEBANON – May 7, 2013 –

The Lebanon VA Medical Center and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the nation's largest single employer of nurses, join 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 & Innovation in Patient Care". VA health care facilities throughout the country will pay tribute to their 80,000 nurses who Margaret G. Wilson, MSN, RN Associate Director for Patient Care Services at the Lebanon VA Medical Center and retired United States Navy Captain, describes "as the compassionate backbone of VA's world-class health care system."

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 Lebanon VA Medical Center will be honored with nutritious treats, information and educational seminars and the genuine expression of gratitude of their Veteran patients.

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, contact the Lebanon VA Medical Center at 717-272-6621 or check the Web at <http://www.va.gov/nursing/> .

The Lebanon VA Medical Center is one of 152 medical centers in the Nation whose sole purpose is to provide world class medical care to America's Veterans.

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