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**FOR  
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**VA Celebrates National Nurses Week May 6-12  
*Honoring Caregivers Who Lead the Way***

LEBANON – May 1, 2014 –

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 Leading the Way," VA health care facilities throughout the country will pay tribute to their 90,000 nurses who Lebanon VA Medical Center Director Robert W. Callahan Jr. describes as "the compassionate backbone of VA's world-class health care system." Nurses at VA are invaluable in caring for patients, research efforts, participation in clinical programs and many other activities.

National Nurses Week begins on Tuesday May 6, also known as Nurse Recognition Day. National Nurses Week ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, who was considered the founder of nursing as a modern profession. During this week, nurses at the Lebanon VA Medical Center will be honored with various events throughout the week.

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/>.

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