



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Nursing Honor Guard Pays Tribute to Nurses During Memorial Services

PENSACOLA, Fla. (Oct. 25, 2018) – In mid-September, Baptist Health Care launched the Nursing Honor Guard, a new program established to honor and recognize men and women at the time of their death who dedicated their professional lives to the practice of nursing.

About a dozen current and retired nurses volunteer their time as members of the Nursing Honor Guard, attending the funerals of former Baptist Health Care nurses in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties within a 50-mile radius of Baptist Hospital. The honor guard is invited by the families, and its participation in each service depends on the individual family's request.

"We work with the pastor and family," said Nova McDavid, a registered nurse who works in the Baptist Emergency Trauma Center and has been involved in the formation of the Nursing Honor Guard. "They decide the level of our involvement. We can stand aside at attention or we can play a more active role in the service."

Nursing Honor Guard members dress in traditional white nursing uniforms, white caps and blue capes, and carry Victorian-style lanterns to represent Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The capes were made and donated by Theresa Lee, RN, who is a clinical educator at Baptist's Gulf Breeze Hospital. The uniforms and caps were donated by Uniformly Yours, a local medical uniform store.

Families of Baptist nurses who would like to invite the Nursing Honor Guard to be a part of their loved ones' memorial services can email their request to BHCNurseHonorGuard@bhcpns.org.

CONTACT BELOW IS FOR MEDIA USE ONLY

For more information about this press release or to schedule an interview, please contact Kathy Bowers at 850.791.5254 or BHCMediaRelations@bhcpns.org.

About Baptist Health Care

Baptist Health Care is a community-owned, not-for-profit health care organization committed to improving the quality of life for people and communities in Northwest Florida and South Alabama. The organization is a proud member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. A 2003 Malcolm Baldrige recipient, Baptist continuously strives to be a national leader in quality and service. Baptist Health Care includes three hospitals, four medical parks, Andrews Institute for Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine, Lakeview Center, Baptist Medical Group and Baptist Heart & Vascular Institute. With more than 6,500 employees and employed physicians, Baptist Health Care is the largest non-governmental employer in Northwest Florida. For more information, please visit www.eBaptistHealthCare.org.

Baptist Health Care • Baptist Hospital • Gulf Breeze Hospital • Jay Hospital • Lakeview Center • Baptist Medical Park – Nine Mile • Baptist Medical Park – Navarre • Baptist Medical Park – Pace • Baptist Medical Park – Airport • Andrews Institute • Baptist Medical Group • Baptist Heart & Vascular Institute • Cardiology Consultants

###