

Salem Nurse Honor Guard

A tribute to Jennifer DeLeon

Tribute date: August 28, 2025

This is an excerpt from the service:

Nursing is a calling, a way of life. The Salem Nurse Honor Guard is here today to honor Jennifer DeLeon for her life as a nurse.

She started nursing school at Linfield after high school, but her nursing career was interrupted for a while. She later returned to nursing school in California and graduated in 2020, the year of COVID. Jennifer then accepted travelers' contracts through Kaiser Permanente and administered vaccinations in San Diego. Once the need for Covid vaccinations died down, Jennifer was at a crossroads, and she wasn't sure what she should do next. That's the beauty of nursing. There are so many options.

That's when Jennifer's sister, Rebeca, who works in the NICU here at Salem Health, told her about openings in the OR. Jennifer applied and was hired and jumped in with both feet, and she loved it!

She was thriving and doing so well – she had even signed up to take the upcoming CNOR exam this fall. Although her life was cut short unexpectedly, she will be remembered not by her years as a nurse, but by the difference she made during those years by stepping into people's lives. By special moments, Jennifer was there.



SNHG from left to right: Ginger O'Reilly, Jennifer Chanthalangsy, Britni Young, Dana Hart, Mindy Close, Lori Phillips, Taylor Sherbrick

“I wanted to write to you in appreciation and admiration for your mission and the incredible tribute I had the honor of seeing this last weekend for a fallen member of our surgical services family. Your attendance, tribute, and final call to duty left a deep and lasting impact with me and with the group as they move towards healing and closure. You are making a difference! Please keep doing what you are doing.”

— Josh Franke, MBA,
Vice President of Surgical Services

