

Salem Nurse Honor Guard

A tribute to Fran Eriksen

Tribute date: June 16, 2025

This is an excerpt from the service:

Nursing is more than a professional, it's a calling, a way of life. The nurses here today honor Fran Erickson and her life as a nurse.

Fran dedicated 42 years to her nursing career, starting as a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) at St. Vincent's Hospital in 1967. Subsequently, she took a position at Salem Hospital in the same year. In 1969, Fran decided to focus on her family, and after having two of her three children, resumed nursing part-time until the birth of her third son in 1975.

In the early 1980s, Fran utilized her nursing expertise across various settings, including Blue Bird Camp, Home Health, Long-Term Care, and the Oregon School for the Blind, prior to joining Salem OP Clinics in 1983.

In 1992, after nine years at Salem Clinic, Fran accepted the position of Health Resources Coordinator with Regence Blue Cross. While at Regence Blue Cross, she earned her bachelor's degree in 1997 and subsequently retired from Regence Blue Cross in 2009.



SNHG from left to right: Lori Phillips Lisa Burk, Katie King, Ginger O'Reilly, Kristie Lawrence, Tami Wheeldon, Lori Ernie

“I felt blessed to lead the SNHG tribute for Fran Eriksen. While preparing, I found myself relating to Fran and her career in ways that made her tribute even more meaningful to me. In addition, while looking into the faces of the nurses walking toward me, I felt immeasurable pride in serving with them in such a noble profession and privileged to be commissioned to lead such a meaningful ceremony. The cherry on top was after the tribute, when several attendances sought me out to express how touched they were by the SNHG Tribute, and how much Fran would have loved it! Some even commented that Fran would have wanted to be a Nurse Honor Guard volunteer.”

— Ginger O'Reilly,
SNHG nurse volunteer

