

# Salem Nurse Honor Guard

## A tribute to Flora Martinez

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Tribute date: January 16, 2026

The Salem Nurse Honor Guard had the privilege to recognize a fellow nurse who was on hospice care. We celebrated her nursing career and offered her our best wishes and hopes for comfort and peace in the days ahead.

Flora Martinez grew up in Philadelphia and was encouraged as a child by her family to work hard towards her goals. She always loved people and was willing to help whenever and wherever she was needed. To satisfy this passion, she went into nursing. Flora was working at Temple University Hospital when she decided to join the Vista Volunteers in Seattle, Washington to work with Mexican migrant workers. She was then instrumental in setting up Salud Medical Clinic in Woodburn, Oregon. Part of her nursing career was spent right here at Salem Hospital in the IMCU department.



SNHG from left to right: Kelly Peterson, Ginger O'Reilly, Lori Phillips, Nancy Dunn, Dana Hart, Kristie Lawrence

During the ceremony, Flora was given a red rose to symbolize the comfort, kindness and gentle courage she brought to her patients. A Florence Nightengale Lamp was presented to her to acknowledge the light she had shown on others during her days as a nurse and her unwavering devotion to duty. Lastly, we gave her a prayer blanket to cover her with our wishes of love, comfort and peace as she faced the challenging days forward.

This tribute was very moving to all that attended. To be able to honor Flora in person and thank her for her service was so inspirational. She was very touched and thanked all of us for the tribute. Amidst the hugs, tears and smiles, a special connection was experienced by all who witnessed and participated in this celebration.

