

Salem Nurse Honor Guard

A tribute to Sherry McConkey

Tribute date: September 16, 2025

Career highlights:

In February 1974, Sherry began her long and meaningful career at McMinnville Community Hospital, working first on the medical-surgical floor. By 1976, she became the OB coordinator, where she introduced Family-Centered Care that allowed fathers to attend births — an innovative idea at the time. Over the next 12 years in OB, Sherry served as both a nurse and manager, known for her leadership, compassion and forward-thinking.

Always creative and community-minded, Sherry helped develop Hospitots, a daycare program for hospital employees, and even worked with others to design an evacuation apron that could safely carry multiple

One unforgettable moment in her OB career came when a patient was admitted, stating that her water had broken. Sherry realized it was actually a hemorrhage. Acting quickly, she prepared the OR, drew labs and started an IV before the doctor arrived. The patient had an almost complete placental abruption, and because of Sherry's swift action, both the mother and baby survived — by just minutes.

After her years in OB, Sherry transitioned to the Emergency Department, where she worked for the remainder of her career. Sherry's leadership, persistence, vision and enthusiasm made McMinnville's trauma program one of the best. She oversaw complex processes of data collection, regulatory compliance, outreach education and the coordination of EMS throughout the hospital's service area.

As the hospital's Trauma Coordinator, Sherry also volunteered with Trauma Nurses Talk Tough, visiting schools across Yamhill County to teach bike, gun and auto safety — as well as the dangers of drinking and driving. She was known for her dedication, even stopping her truck when she saw kids riding their bikes without helmets to caution them about the safety risks of doing so.

Through every challenge and change, Sherry brought warmth, courage and care to those around her. Her decades of service reflect not only her skill and leadership but also her deep love for her patients, coworkers and community.



SNHG from left to right: Nancy Dunn, Taylor Sherbrick, Lori Erni, Britni Young, Lisa Haddock, Kristie Lawrence, Lisa Burk, Jenifer Chanthalangsy, Katie King, Dana Hart, Ginger O'Reilly

