



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2026

Mississippi Nurses' Association (MNA)

MNA Celebrates Mississippi Nurses During National Nurses Week, May 6-12

The Mississippi Nurses' Association proudly joins the nation in celebrating National Nurses Week, beginning today – National RN Recognition Day – and continuing through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale. This week honors the nurses who care for Mississippi's communities from our largest urban centers to our most rural towns, where nurses remain the most trusted and accessible healthcare professionals.

According to licensure data from the Mississippi Board of Nursing, the state is home to more than 54,000 actively licensed Registered Nurses, including thousands of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). These nurses serve in hospitals, clinics, schools, long-term care facilities, public health departments, and community-based settings, strengthening the health of communities across Mississippi every day.

“As nurses ourselves, the Executive Director, Dr. Tonya Moore, and the entire MNA Board understand the sacrifices Mississippi nurses make,” the association shared. We know the courage, commitment, and the heart it takes to do this work. We see you, we honor you, and we are deeply grateful.”

A Moment That Captures the Spirit of Mississippi Nursing

At this morning's *Excellence in Nursing Symposium*, Executive Director Moore invited attendees to share the “why” behind becoming – and staying – a nurse. Their responses painted a powerful picture of purpose, service, and pride.

Nurses spoke about educating the next generation, volunteering in underserved communities, and helping patients better understand their health while connecting them to essential resources. Others shared how nursing allows them to work alongside healthcare teams and make a meaningful impact on patients and families every day.

The room reflected nurses with around 10 years of experience sitting alongside those with more than 30 years. What united them was their commitment to growth. For these nurses, professional development is a commitment to continuous learning, leadership, and service.



A Legacy Rooted in History

National Nurses Week concludes on May 12 in honor of Florence Nightingale, whose leadership during the Crimean War helped transform nursing into a respected, evidence-based profession. Her focus on sanitation practices, data collection, and compassionate patient care helped lay the foundation for modern nursing. Her influence continues to shape the nursing profession today, including the work of nurses here in Mississippi.

The Mississippi Nurses Association remains committed to supporting and advancing the profession through advocacy, education, research, and partnerships that strengthen healthcare across our state.

This week, MNA encourages Mississippians across the state to pause and thank a nurse. Because nurses are more than healthcare professionals – they are our neighbors, church members, teammates, relatives, sons and daughters. And every day, they help make Mississippi healthier and stronger.

For more information, visit msnurses.org