



NEWS RELEASE

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Phoebe Celebrates Nurses Week With 2025 DAISY Awards Recognition

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital (PPMH) recognized three exceptional nurses during this year's National Nurses Week celebration with Distinguished DAISY Awards. These honors highlight the impact the nurses have not only at the bedside, but also in leadership, mentorship and long-term service.

Natalie Espy, RN, received the Nurse Educator Award, recognizing her ability to guide and support nurses at all stages of their careers. Natalie brings clarity, patience and flexibility to her teaching – both in the classroom and on the clinical floor. She's known for making complex topics easier to understand and for building confidence in new and experienced nurses alike.

"Natalie creates space for learning without judgment. She's approachable, clear and deeply committed to helping others grow. That's what makes her such an effective educator," said Maureen Jackson, PPMH Chief Nursing Officer.

The Nurse Leader Award was presented to Kelly Barnes, RN, Manager of Nursing Education. Kelly was recognized for her ability to communicate clearly with her team, respond to their needs and keep them connected to the organization's goals. Colleagues describe her as steady, supportive and someone who genuinely listens. "Being a nurse leader isn't easy. There's pressure from every direction, but Kelly leads by example. She keeps her team grounded, advocates for what they need and always puts patients and staff first," said Jackson.

The DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award went to Anza Richardson, RN, Director of Patient Care Logistics. Anza has spent more than 15 years at Phoebe, and her leadership has influenced countless nurses. Known for her calm presence and clear perspective, she has helped shape nursing practice across the organization.

"Anza doesn't just do the work, she helps others see the bigger picture. She's been a mentor, a guide, and a strong voice for nurses and patients alike," said Jackson.

Phoebe also recognized a remarkable group of nominees in each category, reflecting the depth of talent and dedication within the nursing team.

“Nurses are at the center of everything we do. National Nurses Week is about honoring that and making sure they know how much we value their commitment, skill and heart,” said Jackson.

Phoebe remains committed to recognizing the extraordinary contributions of nurses who make a lasting difference in the lives of patients and families every day. These awards serve as a reminder of the dedication, leadership and compassion that define Phoebe’s nursing team.

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