Nursing: A Profession And A Passion

Tomorrow is the start of National Nurses Week, culminating in the celebration on May 12 of the 191st birthday of Florence Nightingale, who is credited with the creation of this noble career path.

Miss Nightingale mentored Linda Richards, America’s first formally trained nurse, who helped establish the new profession in the U.S., in the 1870s. When our founder, Phebe Rideout, decided to donate her Marysville mansion into a community hospital in 1907, she wanted a special person to manage it and to train the staff. Her choice was Miss Fannie Southern, who was — no surprise — a nurse. And the name of the Chico hospital where Miss Southern received her training? Florence Nightingale. Of course.

The training and traditions of nursing have been handed down the generations. They’re now in the hands and hearts of the more than 500 Registered Nurses and 400 nursing support staff working at Fremont-Rideout Health Group. The passion for the profession, on the other hand, is kindled anew with each individual who decides, at a young age or later in life, to make patient care his or her career.

Miss Nightingale recognized the art, the preparation and the devotion it takes to be a nurse. So do we all, and we are grateful to all our nurses who chose to make this commitment to the profession, to our organization and the community we serve.

It’s an extremely demanding job, by any measure. But no matter what comes along on any given shift, you can count on nurses to carry on, in the tradition of all nurses.