National Nurse Week -
Recognizing Nurses in Santa Barbara County

May 6 – May 12, 2010 is National Nurse Week. Santa Barbara County will recognize the contributions of nurses locally at the May 4, 2010 Board of Supervisors meeting with a proclamation being received by nurses from the Public Health Department.

As noted by The American Nursing Association President Rebecca M. Patton, “Today’s nurses must have the strength to care for patients during times of disaster and crisis; the commitment to remain involved in continuing education throughout their careers; and the compassion to provide patient care”.

There are nearly 2.9 million registered nurses in the United States. Nurses work to improve health care in diverse ways to meet the public's needs. Nurses are vital to the well-being of society at large through high quality patient care and education throughout the lifespan:

- Nurses work in a range of settings, including hospitals, clinics, homes and shelters
- Nurses prepare for and respond during times of disaster and crisis
- Nurses partner with community organizations to prevent adverse outcomes, mitigate and control the spread of disease, and assist with access to healthcare

Nurses in the Public Health Department have been particularly busy supporting the well-being of Santa Barbara County residents in the past few years. Nurses have met the healthcare needs of residents as evacuees in the Tea, Gap, and Jesusita fires at the local shelters. Nurses have provided education and immunizations during the recent H1N1 flu epidemic. Nurses in the Public Health Department have addressed a number of tuberculosis cases in our community, limiting the spread of this disease and treating the ill. Nurses have provided assessment, care, education and referrals to high risk and medically fragile mothers, children and homeless families. Public Health Department nurses continue to address the medical needs of the public in six clinics throughout Santa Barbara County.

Public Health Department nurses will be honored at the County Board of Supervisors with Proclamation, nursing pins highlighting “A Healthier Community, 2010”, skills training, an advertisement and regional celebrations to thank nurses for their pivotal role in promoting and maintaining the health of our community.

Please contact Susan Klein-Rothschild to arrange for an interview with a nurse receiving the proclamation at the May 4, 2010 Board of Supervisors meeting.

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