

Praise the RN

As an aged iron lung polio survivor on a ventilator, I have been in and out of Southwest Washington Medical Center quite a few times. I have good outcomes. Even our Washington, D.C., politicians understand that term. This time it took an abdominal surgical procedure to patch me up. A desperate measure.

I saw energetic, young registered nurses who are mostly Clark College graduates, and about as many men as women. To get through the two-year course, they need to be smart and disciplined. I was on Firstenberg Tower fourth and fifth floors. There, they do 12-hour shifts and don't sag very much, even after 10 hours.

Some invasive procedures are done better by seasoned nurses and respiratory therapists than doctors. We don't need a doctor to start a difficult IV or insert a tracheostomy tube. The Firstenberg Towers fourth and fifth floors are fast-paced and not for all RNs, but at least good experience for new nurses.

When the paramedics took me home, the two young male RNs that had taken good care of me stood at the door at attention bidding me goodbye. I felt like somebody.

Jerry Daniel
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