

For immediate release
Tuesday, April 8, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will meet with representatives of the Visiting Nurse Association of Washington, D.C. in celebration of the organization's 75th birthday Friday, April 11th at 3 p.m. on the White House grounds.

In a ceremony similar to one in 1927 in which Mrs. Coolidge participated (see photo), Mrs. Ford will cut the organization's birthday cake and accept a black nursing satchel like those carried by visiting nurses since 1900.

Nurses taking part in the ceremony will be in uniforms representing various periods from 1900 to the present. Mrs. Ford will be designated an Honorary Visiting Nurse during the ceremony.

Participating in the presentation of the Honorary Visiting Nurse certificate: Mrs. Julia Mills Jacobsen of Washington, D.C., president of the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurse Association; Dorothy Nelson of Silver Spring, Md., Executive Director of the Visiting Nurse Association; and Mrs. Alma Genus of Washington, D.C., the staff member with the longest term of service (35 years).

Participating in the photo duplicating the 1927 cake-cutting: Pat Greer of Suitland, Md., in 1900 uniform; Norma Jean Hatot of Beltsville, Md., in uniform worn from 1910-1918; Carolyn Begin of Cheverly, Md., in early 1920's uniform; Vickie Bocchieri of Silver Spring, Md., in 1927 uniform; and Mercedes Baker of Rockville, Md., and Clara Hazel of Washington, D.C. in current uniforms.

Also present will be Mrs. Louise Thompson, who attended the ceremony in 1927 and was included in the group photograph with Mrs. Coolidge. Mrs. Thompson retired from the Visiting Nurses Association in 1970 after 42 years of service.

The Visiting Nurses Association of Washington, D.C. is a United Way Agency with a staff of 160 in the District and Maryland. The Association provides health care -- nursing and physical, speech and occupational therapy -- to patients in their homes. There are more than 578 Visiting Nurse groups throughout the US.

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