



## TOWN OF AMHERST HIGHLIGHTS EXCEPTIONAL LIFESAVERS DURING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

*'Nurses Light Up the Sky' - Town Hall Illuminated in Red,  
Joining National Monuments to Honor Nurses*

**(Amherst, NY)** – The Town of Amherst welcomed four exceptional nurses, Sandra Stafford, Allysha Hartke, Carol Reece and Donald Yung from Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital (MFSH) to the May 12, 2025 Work Session to honor their commitment to service during National Nurses Week. Deputy Supervisor Shawn Lavin presented each with a proclamation that was read into the official town record to celebrate National Nurses Week.

"I want to thank Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, our honorees, and nurses across the country for the great work that they do every single day. Answering the call to serve is extremely admirable as the work requires one to test their limits, to keep going when they are exhausted, to always have compassion and to constantly face new challenges. During my service with the Air Force and National Guard, I saw firsthand how critical nurses are and the difference they make," said Deputy Supervisor Shawn Lavin. "Today we are honored to be joined by Stafford, Yung, Reece and Hartke as they serve our friends, families and neighbors."



2025 National Nurses Week was marked May 6-12 to recognize the invaluable contributions of nurses worldwide and the real-life challenges they face every day. The week is dedicated to showing appreciation for the critical role that nurses play in our lives and society. It is also a time to celebrate nurses. Across the

country, sites and buildings were illuminated in red to symbolize that “Nurses Light Up the Sky.” Locally, Amherst Town Hall joined Niagara Falls and Buffalo Botanical Gardens. Across the nation dozens of landmarks took part, including the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, One World Trade Center in NYC, Navy Pier Wheel in Chicago, and many more.

“We are very grateful to the Town of Amherst for honoring four of our exceptional nurses from Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital during this National Nurses Week. Our team of 800 nurses, plus support and ancillary staff, are so proud and humbled that the community chooses them to provide life changing care to their families and loved ones,” Judy Baumgartner, President, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital.

Amherst is fortunate to have many outstanding nurses in our community. Monday’s honorees were just a few of them. Stafford, RN, has been a nurse for four decades, working in Labor and Delivery at MFSH and

is credited with being a crucial element in a life-changing moment for so many Western New Yorkers. When asked about Stafford, one patient said they have “never seen such good care in any hospital stay I encountered.” Stafford is credited with being a problem solver when a patient is struggling with the situation.

A dedicated nurse nearing 30 years of service, Yung, RN, is a Charge Nurse in the Emergency Room at MFSH. Those who have been honored to work alongside Yung reflect on his ability to be extremely dependable. They say he is their “go-to,” always there to find a solution, answer questions and step in to help. Having someone like Yung in emergency situations has helped save lives, protect his colleagues and provide the best possible outcome for all.

Reele, RN, works in MFSH Operating Rooms and is known for her exceptional clinical skills and is a leader by example, building positive change and demonstrating quality care. As a member of the surgical staff, Reele faces a stressful environment with compassion and dedication.

Hartke, RN, has worked in the Cardiac Telemetry Unit for nine years and has been recognized for her attention to detail and taking the time to be sure that patients and their families are supported and cared for. One of her best qualities is the guidance she provides new nurses, helping them learn the job, especially in difficult situations. The best legacy that a nurse can leave behind them is a next generation of exception caregivers.

The Amherst Town Board thanks the community for joining in honoring and celebrating nurses and the difference they make in our community. The presentation can be found on the Town’s YouTube Channel, @townofamherstnewyork.