

## Tribute Speech

**Specific Goal:** To inform the audience about Loretta Ford's contribution to the nursing community.

**Thesis:** Loretta Ford created the first Nurse Practitioner education program and gave more autonomy to nurses throughout the United States.

### Intro:

- I. Nurse Practitioners did not exist before 1965. This is according to Linda Pearson of *Nurse Practitioner* in her 2004 article titled "Honoring our Rich Past, Our Exciting Future".
- II. Today I will inform you about Loretta Ford's contribution to the nursing community.
- III. My strong desire to help others has led me down the path to become a Nurse Practitioner.
- IV. Loretta Ford created the first Nurse Practitioner program and gave more autonomy to nurses through the United States.

Transition: Loretta Ford was a trailblazer.

### Body:

- I. First I will tell you how Loretta Ford created the first Nurse Practitioner education program.
  - a. Loretta Ford saw a need for nurses to receive specialized training.
    - i. Linda Pearson of *Nurse Practitioner* notes in a 2004 article titled "Honoring Our Rich Past, Our Exciting Future", that "There weren't enough nurses or doctors. The abuse and misuse of the nurse became obvious".
    - ii. "We chose to look at how we could alter the nurse's role to make her accountable to patients, not...physicians" (IBID).
  - b. This inspired her to create a nurse practitioner education program.
    - i. Elizabeth Landau of *CNN Health* notes in a 2011 article titled "Nurse Practitioners were 'Lone Rangers,' founder says" that "She collaborated with pediatrician Dr. Henry Silver to start the nation's first pediatric nurse practitioner program...".
    - ii. "By the 1980s, nurse practitioner programs had started cropping up all over the country" (IBID).

Transition: Loretta's program was beneficial to the nursing community.

- II. Ford's program gave more autonomy to nurses throughout the United States.
  - a. Many states allow Nurse Practitioners to have their own practices
    - i. "...its only recently that autonomy has been legalized..." (IBID).

- ii. “<Today> Nurse Practitioners are allowed to have independent practices in 16 states and the District of Columbia...” (IBID).
- b. Nurse Practitioners are able to do many of the things doctors do.
  - i. “The ability to assess, diagnose, treat and evaluate -- have not changed...but the extent to which they do those...has” (IBID).
  - ii. “<Now> many can prescribe and diagnose as doctors can...” (IBID).

**Conclusion:**

- I. Loretta Ford created the first Nurse Practitioner education program and gave more autonomy to nurses throughout the United States.
- II. Today I have shared Loretta Ford’s contributions to the nursing community.
- III. Now you know that before 1965, Nurse Practitioners did not exist.

References

- Landau, E. (2011, October 1). Nurse Practitioners were 'Lone Rangers,' founders says. *CNN Health*, p.1-3.
- Pearson, L. (2004). Honoring Our Rich Past, Our Exciting Future. Retrieved July 3, 2012, from <http://web.ebscohost.com.libdb.smc.edu>.