



**Captain James A. Lovell
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NEWS RELEASE

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Lovell FHCC Nurses recognized for Nursing Excellence

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. – Four nurses from the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center were recognized at the Nurses Week closing ceremony May 5 for Excellence in Nursing. The nurses were acknowledged from their professional categories at the annual ceremony:

Anna Chiapete, LPN - Licensed Practical Nurse
Makayla Downs, RN, BSN - Staff Nurse Role
Otis Martin - Nursing Assistant
Cynthia Gunnarson, RNC, MSN - Nurse in Expanded Role

Gunnarson, Downs and Martin was further recognized in their respective categories for the Veterans Integrated Service Network 12 region. They will compete nationally with additional Veterans Affairs regional nurses, which will be announced May 10.

Chiapete, Lovell FHCC Licensed Practical Nurse and resident of Union Grove, Wisc., noted that she was genuinely surprised by the recognition. “I was really shocked when they announced my name,” said Chiapete. “We all work hard every day, focusing on our patients and their families -- but it is truly an honor to be recognized.”

Addressing the crowd of nurses at the ceremony, U.S. Navy Capt. Kathleen Michel, Lovell FHCC Associate Director of Fleet Medicine, expressed her gratitude. “My sincere thanks for all you have done to improve the lives of our patients,” said Michel. “My thanks seems so small compared to all you have individually and collectively done, but it comes from my heart.”

Michel’s sentiment was similarly expressed by Dr. Sarah Fouse, Lovell FHCC Associate Director for Patient Services and Nurse Executive. “Nursing is the heart of healthcare,” she said to the nurses at the ceremony. “The desire to go beyond what is asked or expected is a gift that rare individuals give their colleagues and their organizations. All things can be taught, but extra effort comes not from a book, but from the heart. We are better together.”

About the Lovell FHCC: The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center is the nation’s first fully integrated medical facility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. Established on Oct. 1, 2010, the facility integrates all medical care into a federal health care center with a single combined VA and Navy mission, serving military members, Veterans, military family members and retirees.

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(From left) Dr. Sarah Fouse, Lovell FHCC Associate Director for Patient Services and Nurse Executive, presents an annual award for Nursing Excellence to Makayla Downs, Lovell FHCC Staff Nurse, while Patrick Sullivan, Lovell FHCC Director, applauds. (Photo by Mary Waterman)



Cynthia Gunnarson, Lovell FHCC Nurse and Magnet Coordinator, was recognized in the Nurse in Expanded Role category. (Photo by Mary Waterman)



Makayla Downs, Lovell FHCC Staff Nurse was recognized in the Staff Nurse Role category. (Photo by Mary Waterman)



Anna Chiapete, Lovell FHCC Licensed Practical Nurse, was recognized in the Licensed Practical Nurse category. (Photo by Mary Waterman)



Otis Martin Lovell FHCC Nursing Assistant, was recognized in the Nursing Assistant category. (Photo by Mary Waterman)