

Sioux Center Hospital Nurse Selected as a “Great Iowa Nurse”

Marilyn Vermeer’s resume stretches across two pages, testifying to her decades of work as a registered nurse. But there’s more to her capabilities than her 34 years of experience.

A nomination form submitted to the 2008 100 Great Iowa Nurses contest describes her as honest, compassionate, professional and encouraging. Apparently, that was what counted to the judges.

The Sioux Center Community Hospital employee joined 99 other Iowa residents in receiving the honor.

Here’s what the 53-year-old Boyden resident said about the terms that have defined her career:

Blood

“Well, I know that for some people, blood makes them think of being ill, but that’s not necessarily what I think. Blood might mean that you are ill, but it also might mean that you are a healthy, normal individual.”

Patients

“To me, it gives me a warm feeling, because they are the reason we’re here.”

Needles

“Medicating. Because that’s how we’re able to administer medications for therapy or for medication for pain or for hydration.”

Emergencies

“That makes me get my adrenaline up. I hear emergency, and I’m ready to go.”

Death

“I think of peace. That would be the word, I guess.”

Charting

“It’s something I have to do. It’s not my favorite thing, although it does help us keep a story going for the patient, so it is useful.”

Scrubs

“Comfortable”

Doctors

“I think of healer. I think of knowledge.”

Changing technology

“With that, I think of our need to balance technology and hands-on care. Because we’re so rapidly heading into technology, and especially for the nursing, I am not talking diagnostic, we can’t rely on our machines and our equipment, we have to be able to know our patient. We need to see, feel and touch.

Co-workers

“Friends.”