Florence Nightingale Medal: Call for Nominations

October 16, 2020

Nurses and nursing aides perform extraordinary acts to help the injured and sick in times of armed conflict and in the wake of natural or man-made disasters, including pandemics. We believe that it is important to celebrate the contribution that nurses and nursing aides make to the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) and to humanitarian work in general. By ensuring that vulnerable people receive medical care in some of the most difficult circumstances, nurses and nursing aides embody the spirit of humanity, one of our fundamental principles.

In recognition of this, the Florence Nightingale Medal will be awarded by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to individuals who have shown exceptional courage and devotion to the wounded, sick or disabled, or to civilian victims in such crises. It will also be awarded in recognition of exemplary services or a creative and pioneering spirit in the areas of public health or nursing education. The recipients will be announced by the ICRC on May 12, 2021.

The American Red Cross is calling for the nominations of qualified individuals for the medal. If the ICRC selects a candidate submitted by the American Red Cross, the medal will be presented at an event in Washington DC at a future date.

Guidelines for nominating candidates:

The specific reasons for the nomination should be stated on the Nomination Form, along with a description of the circumstances in which the candidate has shown exceptional courage and devotion or in which they have displayed exemplary moral and professional conduct. Moreover, a description should be given of the candidate’s current and past responsibilities to provide a full picture of their qualities. Please note that if the candidate has retired from nursing activities or is deceased, no more than two years may have elapsed between the end of their nursing activities and the date on which the nomination is submitted. In addition, the Medal can only be awarded posthumously if the candidate died while carrying out their duties.

Some additional guidance:

- The Florence Nightingale Medal recognizes exceptional nurses whose work goes well above and beyond what is expected of them. It is not intended as a way of thanking a retiring nurse for their years of service.
- Nominations should be brief but should clearly convey what the candidate did that was so exceptional and makes them stand out from their peers.
- Candidates cannot nominate themselves.

The following information must be included. Incomplete nominations will not be considered.

- Nightingale Nomination Form 2020-21 (all sections should be completed; use N/A if something is not applicable; note instructions that the Justification for Nomination content may not extend beyond pages 3 and 4 of the form and anything longer will not be considered; handwritten nominations will not be accepted)
- Cover letter from Nominator: include your relationship with the Candidate, how long you have known the Candidate and briefly describe why you support the Candidate for the Florence Nightingale Medal
- Letter of endorsement from Candidate’s supervisor
- Letter of endorsement from senior leader of Association, Service, or Organization (for non-Red Cross Candidates)
- Candidate’s CV
- Nightingale 2020-21 Nomination Contact Information Form

All documents should include the Candidate’s Name and be submitted to National Awards (nationalawards@redcross.org) by COB December 7, 2020. Questions regarding the nomination process should be directed to National Awards.