

Επικήδειος Ομιλία στην κηδεία της Miss Jeanne Shellish
Παρασκευή 13 Φεβρουαρίου 2015 στην καθολική εκκλησία
του Τίμιου Σταύρου στις 12.00

EULOGY

On behalf of the Nursing Services of the Ministry of Health I express our sadness, yet great honour, to be here to pay our last respects to Miss Jeanne Shellish who offered so much to the nursing profession in Cyprus.

It is important for one to know about the history of our profession and the people who fought for all we have, so that we can appreciate the present. It appears that nurses have benefitted greatly due to the dedication and efforts of Miss Jeanne Shellish.

Miss Shellish studied nursing in Rhodesia. The Cyprus Gazette of 1947 records that she was in the civil service as a Nursing Sister working in various public hospitals around the island such as Kyrenia and Limassol.

Following conflicts with the Turkish community in 1963 which involved the departure of Senior Matron Aziz, Miss Shellish took over. This was then a title of great authority and although Miss Shellish could have been permanently positioned at the Department of Medical and Public Health Services she preferred to be stationed at Nicosia General Hospital where she diligently recruited and transferred

nursing personnel all over Cyprus always moving forward with zeal, stability and a vision for nursing.

Interwoven with her passion for nursing Miss Shellish participated in nongovernmental organizations like the Red Cross for which she served on the executive committee. She was also involved in the foundation of the Cyprus Anticancer Society in 1971.

A small group of volunteers, including Miss Shellish battled to establish the Arodaphnousa Nursing Home which accepted its first cancer patients in 1976.

Miss Shellish also played an active role in striving for the establishment of the Professional Nursing Association in Cyprus. This materialized in 1972 and bears her signature. During this period Miss Shellish also connected with the International Council of Nurses of which Cyprus is now an active member. We also have a strong Professional Association – the Cyprus Nursing and Midwifery Association for which we thank Miss Shellish and others for all the effort they put in for us to achieve this.

During the Turkish Invasion of 1974 Miss Shellish remained at the Nicosia General Hospital and was a pillar of strength, serenity and stability for all nurses during those times of profound turmoil.

In 1975 Miss Shellish graduated from the College of Arts and Science in Nicosia with a Diploma in Scientific Management. Her dissertation dealt with the development of nursing manpower in Cyprus.

I do not know the exact date that Miss Shellish retired but since a nurse never ceases to be a nurse, it is not so important.

On behalf of all nurses and midwives of Cyprus we express our gratitude and bid you farewell Miss Shellish. May your gentle soul rest in peace.

Maria Evangelou

13/2/2015

(I thank my friends and colleagues Ms. Lucy Haladjian and Ms. Sophia Kyriakidou for the information they provided me)