



Join us in celebrating National Hospital Week, May 10-16, 2026!

This National Hospital Week, the American Hospital Association will follow the theme “Healing Happens Here;” recognizing the amazing people who work in America’s hospitals and health systems. We are asking the public to join in this effort to help celebrate National Hospital Week by showing support to all health care workers. Listed below are many ways hospitals can participate, as well as general guidance on messaging for the initiative.

We encourage National Hospital Week participants to find unique ways to show support for their local hospital. To do this, we encourage you to use the hashtags **#HospitalWeek** and/or **#HealingHappensHere** in your social posts.

The AHA has provided sample messages and graphics that you can use. Please tag @ahahospitals in your messages on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Link: [2026 National Hospital Week May 10-16 | AHA](#)

Along with digital communications, the AHA team is excited to share that this year, we will have National Hospital Week merchandise available for purchase for your team. You can find available products and place an order here:

<https://www.jimcolemanstore.com/nhw/>

Graphics: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IlzR7hx846S-uGYmzR0feE0AKva0FDKB?usp=sharing>

Sample Messages

***Note: Please insert relevant information in the highlighted sections of the social media posts below to customize posts for your use.**

- Hospitals and health systems continue to care for their communities despite any challenges thrown at them. Join us in celebrating National Hospital Week, May 10-16, to share thanks! <https://www.aha.org/ahia/get-involved/national-hospital-week>

- America's health care professionals take on unimaginable challenges and repeatedly rise to the occasion. Take some time during National Hospital Week to thank health care workers for their dedication to keeping their community healthy!
- You can always rely on hospitals to be there to care for you during each chapter of your life. #NationalHospitalWeek
- When you need it most, hospitals are here to heal all wounds! Hospitals save lives, and communities thrive as a result.
- Health care professionals are there for all of life's big moments, providing compassionate care to patients in hospitals and health systems across the country. During National Hospital Week, we thank all those who work to advance the health of their communities. #HealingHappensHere
- 24/7, 365 days a year, health care professionals are ready to care for patients when they're at their most vulnerable. Thank you to all the amazing people work hard to keep their communities healthy. #HospitalWeek #HealingHappensHere
- Patients and communities rely on the wide range of critical health care services that only hospitals and health systems can provide, including 24/7 emergency and other higher-acuity care. Support National Hospital Week by showing your appreciation! <https://www.aha.org/ahia/get-involved/national-hospital-week>
- Every day, we're working to build a healthier community. Last year, we provided over \$XXXX in community benefits—from free health screenings to financial assistance for families who needed it most. Because quality healthcare should be accessible to everyone in our community. ❤️
- Exciting news from our research team: [insert news story of research if applicable]. Innovation happens here, and our patients are benefiting from tomorrow's medicine today. Learn more about our research initiatives on our website.
- Meet XXXX, one of our [insert employee role here] who went above and beyond for our patients [insert story here]. Stories like these happen every single day

here. Our staff doesn't just treat conditions—they care for people. That's the difference compassion makes. ❤️

- [Please insert example of any applicable mobile health screening efforts your hospital has]. Free blood pressure checks, diabetes screenings, and health education—all brought directly to your community. Check our schedule to see when we'll be in your area!
- Fresh produce, healthy living! [If you have a weekly farmers market, please feel free to publicize with this post] Located right in our main lobby, it's connecting our community with local farmers and making nutritious food more accessible. Stop by and fill your bag with goodness! 🥕🍅
- The smiles say it all! [please share your hospital's maternal health success stories]. From preemies weighing less than a pound to the healthy, energetic kids they are today—these reunions remind us why we do what we do. 🥰✨
- Join us for our free [please feel free to publicize your health system's community educational offering]. Because an educated community is a healthier community. Register now—space is limited!
- Distance shouldn't determine your access to specialized care. Our telehealth services and traveling specialist clinics are bringing expert medical care directly to rural communities across the region. From cardiology to pediatrics, we're here for you, no matter where you call home.
- Great healthcare takes a village. Our care coordination team works with local organizations, schools, and community partners to address health barriers and improve wellness for everyone. From transportation assistance to nutrition programs, we're tackling health challenges together—because your wellbeing extends far beyond our walls.
- Did you know? Hospitals work with their community partners to develop and deploy programs that advance health and wellness. Learn more: <https://www.aha.org/ahia/get-involved/national-hospital-week>

- Hospitals care for their communities every single day, no matter what. Learn more about the amazing stories of hospital care: [Telling the Hospital Story | AHA](#)
- National Hospital Week is the chance to thank hospitals, health systems, and health care professionals for their commitment to our health and safety. #HealingHappensHere <https://www.aha.org/ahia/get-involved/national-hospital-week>
- Between health care professionals and high-quality hospitals, the health of our communities continues to improve! #HealingHappensHere <https://www.aha.org/ahia/get-involved/national-hospital-week>
- Health care professionals are always there, ready to care for their community. This #HospitalWeek, share your support to celebrate all that hospitals do for patients. #HealingHappensHere
- What does your local hospital mean to your community? Learn more about the impact of local hospitals: <link>
- Thank you to all who work in, manage or support hospitals! We respect and appreciate all of the hard work that goes into providing safe, quality care for patients. Celebrate with us using #HealingHappensHere!
- Health care workers inspire us every day and are at the heart of National Hospital Week. Celebrate the health care workers that protect you and your family. #HealingHappensHere
- Hospitals are a symbol for care and safekeeping. Celebrate your local hospital during #HospitalWeek by showing support for the health care workers in your community.
- Hospitals and health systems are committed to supporting and advancing public health within the communities we serve. #HealingHappensHere
- Each year, we deliver [insert number of baby deliveries] babies each year. We're proud to help patients welcome a new member to their family!

- Did you know that new mothers can experience a variety of new changes to their body after delivery? We are excited to share that we provide “I gave birth” wrist bands to alert staff to any postpartum complications in the immediate weeks afterwards.
- Seeing a newborn whisked to the NICU department is always stressful for new parents. At [insert hospital name], we work with parents and care teams to implement a collaborative approach to care. Parents are empowered to get hands on experience caring for their babies while in the NICU from diaper changes to baby’s first sponge bath!
- Whether it’s late at night or during the weekend, you never have to worry about the operating hours of the emergency department at your local hospital. Our emergency department is fully staffed and ready to provide care all day and night!
- Each year, our emergency department can see [insert number of visits] visits. As one of the main care providers in the region, we’re committed to providing continuous care for our patients.
- When every second matters, you can trust our emergency department teams to work as hard as possible to provide the highest quality of care that we know our patients expect from us.
- As a rural hospital, we serve as the major employer for the region! With over [insert number of staff] employees, we are committed to developing a talented workforce ready to provide high quality care to the community.
- At [insert hospital name], we have provided mobile care units to tackle transportation concerns for our patients. It’s important for our patients that they receive continuous care, so we’re determined to meet them where they’re at!
- With the warmer weather comes the launch of our annual farmers markets! Join us at [insert information for any kind of farmers market or food distribution] to access tasty fruits and veggies!

A big thank you to our Facilities & Engineers professionals for keeping <insert hospital name> in tip-top shape! 🏗️ Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed.
#HealingHappensHere #HospitalWeek



Major kudos to our environmental services team for ensuring <insert hospital name> remains clean, safe, and welcoming! 🌿 Your dedication and hard work are truly appreciated. #HealingHappensHere #HospitalWeek



We're grateful for our risk management team for ensuring <insert hospital name> remains safe and secure! 🏥 📄 Your dedication to risk management and safety protocols is forever invaluable. #HealingHappensHere #HospitalWeek



A big thank you to our supply chain team for ensuring <insert hospital name> has the materials we need to run smoothly and efficiently to provide next-level care! 📎 Your commitment to maintaining our supply chain operations is greatly appreciated. #HealingHappensHere #HospitalWeek



We're grateful for our marketing and communications team showcasing <insert hospital name> at its best! 🖥️ 📱 Thanks to our MarCom team, we're able to extend our reach and provide great care to our community. #HealingHappensHere #HospitalWeek



A big thank you to our capacity management team for optimizing <insert hospital name> capacity and resources! 🏥 📄 Your strategic efforts ensure we can serve our patients effectively. #HealingHappensHere #HospitalWeek



This National Hospital Week, we proudly celebrate our rural hospital's commitment to serving our community! As a vital health care provider, we are dedicated to ensuring everyone has access to quality care, no matter where they live. Thank you to our amazing staff for your unwavering dedication! #HealingHappensHere

Updated 4/30/2026

🏢 At [Hospital Name], we understand the unique challenges faced by rural health care. This week, we honor our incredible team who work tirelessly to provide essential services and support to our community. Together, we're making a difference in the lives of our patients!

🌟 🙌 Happy National Hospital Week! Today, we recognize the vital role our rural hospital plays in the health and well-being of our community. From emergency care to preventive services, we are here for you every step of the way. Thank you for trusting us with your care!

💖 ✨ As we celebrate National Hospital Week, let's acknowledge the resilience and dedication of our staff at [Hospital Name]. Your hard work in providing care in our rural community is truly inspiring! Together, we are a beacon of hope!

As our hospital and health care staff celebrate National Hospital Week, we want to test your knowledge of this national week of recognition for health care professionals and the importance of hospitals to communities across the country! See how many questions you get right!

(NOTE FOR HOSPITALS/STATE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATIONS: If you want to use these in social media, create the poll using the social media platform's "Create a Poll" feature. The answer is revealed in the first comment under the post. If possible, pin that comment so others can see whether they have correctly answered the question. Hospitals are also encouraged to use these posts for a friendly internal staff competition during the week. If hospitals elect to do that, please tag us at @ahahospitals, using the hashtag on social media so we can repost to our social channels).

Poll Post 1:

🌟 NHW Origin Story 🌟

Question: Matthew O. Foley, who was managing editor of *Hospital Management*, in the 1920s conceived the idea of National Hospital Week in what year?

Poll Options:

A) 1921

B) 1927

- C) 1922
- D) 1925

POLL QUESTION NO. 2

History Has Its Eyes On You (NHW Edition)

Who was the first president to recognize National Hospital Week  ?

Poll Options:

- A) Herbert Hoover
- B) Warren G. Harding**
- C) Theodore Roosevelt
- D) Woodrow Wilson

Poll Question 3:

Star Power

In 1965, the Chicago Hospital Council had a surprise guest at its National Hospital Week celebration. Who was it (hint: he used to have a PGA Tour pro-am event named after him)?

Poll Options:

- A) Danny Thomas
- B) Buddy Guy
- C) Bob Hope**
- D) Danny Kaye

Poll Question 4:

Hey, you guys!

In the past, celebrities recorded radio spots to celebrate National Hospital Week. Which PBS “Electric Company” cast member recorded a message for NHW in the 1980s?

Poll Options:

- A) Irene Cara
- B) Rita Moreno**
- C) Lily Tomlin
- D) Joan Rivers

More Traditional Posts with Graphics

INSTAGRAM/FACEBOOK:

☀️ The Origins of National Hospital Week ☀️

Did you know National Hospital Week dates back more than 100 years? 🤖 📺

📖 In **1921**, President **Warren G. Harding** established **National Hospital Day** on May 12—chosen to honor **Florence Nightingale's birthday**.

💡 The idea came from Matthew O. Foley, editor of *Hospital Management* journal, who wanted to rebuild public trust in hospitals after the 1918 flu pandemic.

📧 Foley even wrote to Daniel Test, superintendent of Pennsylvania Hospital (founded in 1751 by Dr. Thomas Bond and Benjamin Franklin!) to help plan the *very first* hospital celebration.

📅 By **1953**, Hospital Day expanded into the full week we know today.

Today, we honor the caregivers, staff, and hospitals that have served communities for generations.



#NationalHospitalWeek #HospitalHistory #WeAreHealthcare

LINKEDIN

📄 The Origins of National Hospital Week

As we celebrate National Hospital Week, it's worth looking back at how this tradition began more than a century ago.

The AHA Resource Center maintains an extensive archival collection documenting the history of National Hospital Week—from early news clippings and letters to promotional kits and annual reports.

- ◆ **1921:** President *Warren G. Harding* officially established **National Hospital Day** on May 12, chosen in honor of Florence Nightingale's birthday.
- ◆ The idea originated with *Matthew O. Foley*, managing editor of *Hospital Management* journal, who sought to restore public confidence in hospitals after the 1918 influenza pandemic.
- ◆ Foley shared his vision in a letter to *Daniel Test*, superintendent of Pennsylvania Hospital (founded in 1751 by Dr. Thomas Bond and Benjamin Franklin) and AHA's 11th member and 5th President. Their correspondence helped shape the first-ever national hospital observance.
- ◆ **1953:** National Hospital Day expanded into **National Hospital Week**, the week-long recognition we know today.

This history reminds us how vital hospitals—and the people who run them—have always been to community health and public trust. During National Hospital Week, we honor their enduring commitment to care.

#WeAreHealthcare

TWITTER:


Tweet 1:

 **Did you know?**

National Hospital Week has roots that go back more than a century. Here's how it all began. 🙌

#WeAreHealthcare

Tweet 2:

 In **1921**, President *Warren G. Harding* established **National Hospital Day** on May 12—chosen to honor Florence Nightingale's birthday.

#WeAreHealthcare

Tweet 3:

💡 The idea originated with Matthew O. Foley, managing editor of *Hospital Management* journal. After the 1918 flu pandemic, he wanted to restore public trust in hospitals by opening their doors to communities.

#WeAreHealthcare

Tweet 4:

📧 Foley shared his vision in a letter to Daniel Test, superintendent of Pennsylvania Hospital (founded in 1751 by Dr. Thomas Bond and Benjamin Franklin). Test was also AHA's 11th member and 5th President.

#WeAreHealthcare

Tweet 5:

📅 Their correspondence helped launch the *very first* National Hospital Day. By **1953**, the observance expanded into **National Hospital Week**, the week-long recognition we know today.

#WeAreHealthcare

Tweet 6:

💖 Today, we celebrate hospitals—and the teams who dedicate themselves to caring for communities every day.

#WeAreHealthcare

LINKEDIN

📖 A Look Back: The 10th National Hospital Day Report (1931)

As we reflect on the history behind National Hospital Week, the 1931 *Official Report of the Committee of the 10th National Hospital Day* offers an incredible snapshot of how far this celebration had grown in just a decade.

◆ Widespread Participation

On May 12, 1931, **47 states**, the District of Columbia, **six Canadian provinces**, as well as **Alaska and New Zealand** took part in National Hospital Day activities.

Historical note: In 1931, the U.S. had only **48 states**—Alaska and Hawaii were still territories and wouldn't achieve statehood until 1959.

◆ **AHA's Nationwide Outreach**

For that year's event, the AHA distributed **6,500 leaflets** with program ideas and publicity tips to help local leaders organize their efforts.

◆ **Support from National Leadership**

President **Herbert Hoover** met with an AHA delegation—President Sexton, Father Garesche, and Committee Chairman Matthew Foley—again expressing his active support for National Hospital Day.

◆ **Radio: The Rising Communications Powerhouse**

The Committee focused heavily on securing national radio coverage. An estimated **450 radio announcements** aired across chain broadcasts, including a reference during the widely popular *Amos 'n' Andy* program.

◆ **Chicago Leading the Way**

In Chicago alone, at least **775 local programs** were organized by local chairs and committees, highlighting the role of hospitals and the purpose behind National Hospital Day.

These early efforts helped build the foundation for what later became National Hospital Week—an enduring tradition celebrating hospitals, caregivers, and the communities they serve.

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INSTAGRAM/FACEBOOK:

🌟 **A Look Back: National Hospital Day, 1931** 🌟

Did you know the 10th National Hospital Day in **1931** was a truly global effort? 🇺🇸 ✨

🌍 **Who participated?**

- 47 U.S. states
- Washington, D.C.
- 6 Canadian provinces
- Alaska & New Zealand

Fun fact: In 1931, the U.S. had only **48 states**—Alaska & Hawaii didn't become states until 1959.

Updated 4/30/2026

AHA's Outreach

For the 1931 celebration, the AHA sent out **6,500 leaflets** with program ideas and publicity guidance to support local organizers across the country.

National Support

President **Herbert Hoover** met with AHA leaders—President Sexton, Father Garesche, and Matthew Foley—and expressed strong support for National Hospital Day.

Radio Takes the Spotlight

Radio was the major publicity tool of the era. In 1931:

- An estimated **450 radio announcements** aired nationwide

Chicago Leading the Charge

At least **775 local programs** took place across Chicago alone—spotlighting hospital work and the mission behind National Hospital Day.

💙 These early efforts helped shape the foundation of the modern National Hospital Week we celebrate today.

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TWITTER

Flashback to 1931: The 10th National Hospital Day

The official report (shown here) demonstrates just how far the celebration had grown in a decade:

- **47 states**, D.C., 6 Canadian provinces, plus Alaska & New Zealand joined in
- Reminder: in 1931 the U.S. had only **48 states**—Alaska & Hawaii were still territories
- AHA distributed **6,500 leaflets** with program + publicity guidance
- President **Herbert Hoover** met with AHA leaders and voiced strong support
- An estimated **450 radio announcements** aired nationwide—including during *Amos 'n' Andy*
- Chicago led the way with **775+ local programs**

A remarkable chapter in the history of National Hospital Day—and the foundation of today's National Hospital Week. 💙

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INSTAGRAM/FACEBOOK:

National Hospital Week Throwback!

For National Hospital Week in **1966**, AHA Chairman **Dr. Philip D. Bonnet** (then administrator at University Hospital in Boston and later at Johns Hopkins University in Boston) was featured on the nationally syndicated radio show **Kaleidoscope**, hosted by Dale Remington. 📻 ✨

What makes this extra special?

These interviews were recorded and distributed as **Mini 33 RPM LPs**—also known as *tiny vinyls*! 🎧
And yes... we still have Dr. Bonnet's interview preserved on one of these rare little records.

You could even call them a fun **precursor to today's podcasts**. 🎧 🎧

From tiny vinyls to digital streams—National Hospital Week has always found creative ways to share the story of hospitals and those who lead them.

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LINKEDIN:

National Hospital Week Spotlight: A 1966 Media Milestone

As we look back on the evolution of National Hospital Week, one fascinating moment comes from **1966**, when AHA Chairman **Dr. Philip D. Bonnet**—then administrator at University Hospital in Boston and later at Johns Hopkins University in Boston—was featured on the nationally syndicated radio program **Kaleidoscope**, hosted by Dale Remington.

A Unique Format for the Time

These radio segments weren't just broadcast—they were **recorded and distributed as Mini 33 RPM LPs**, often referred to as *tiny vinyls*. This format allowed hospitals and communities nationwide to share and replay the interview, amplifying awareness during National Hospital Week.

A Precursor to Today's Podcasts

Remarkably, we still have Dr. Bonnet's interview preserved on one of these tiny vinyls. It serves as an early example of how the AHA leveraged emerging media to elevate conversations about hospital leadership, public health, and community engagement.

From tiny vinyls in 1966 to digital podcasts today, National Hospital Week has always embraced innovation to highlight the essential role hospitals play in supporting community well-being.

#WeAreHealthcare

TWITTER:

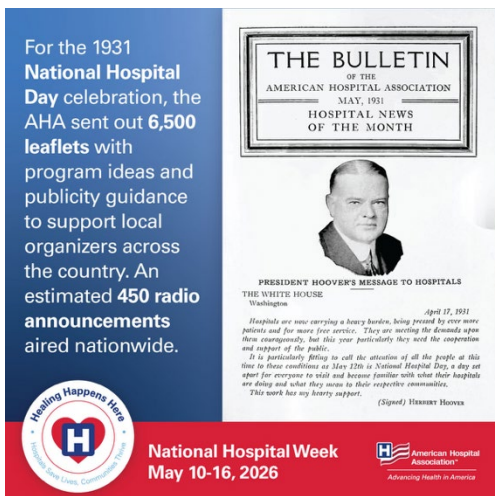
 **National Hospital Week Throwback (1966)**

For NHW 1966, AHA Chairman **Dr. Philip D. Bonnet** appeared on the nationally syndicated radio show **Kaleidoscope** with host Dale Remington. 📻

These segments were recorded on **Mini 33 RPM LPs**—aka *tiny vinyls!* 🎧

And yes, Dr. Bonnet’s interview still exists on one of them.

A fun piece of history... and a true **precursor to today’s podcasts.** 🎧



For the 1931 National Hospital Day celebration, the AHA sent out **6,500 leaflets** with program ideas and publicity guidance to support local organizers across the country. An estimated **450 radio announcements** aired nationwide.

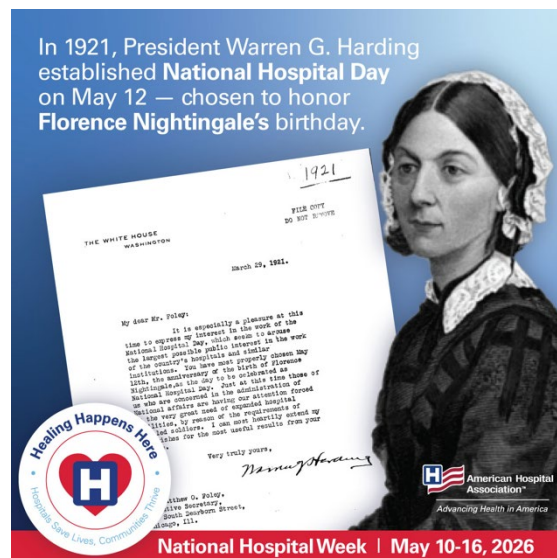
THE BULLETIN
OF THE
AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
MAY, 1931
HOSPITAL NEWS
OF THE MONTH

PRESIDENT HOOVER'S MESSAGE TO HOSPITALS
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

April 17, 1931
Hospitals are now carrying a heavy burden, being pressed by ever more patients and for more free service. They are meeting the demands upon them cheerfully, but this ever, particularly they need the cooperation and support of the public.
It is particularly fitting to call the attention of all the people at this time to these conditions as May 12th is National Hospital Day, a day set apart for everyone to visit and become familiar with what their hospitals are doing and what they mean to their respective communities.
This work has my hearty support.
(Signed) HARRY HOOVER

Healing Happens Here
National Hospital Week
May 10-16, 2026

American Hospital Association
Advancing Health in America



In 1921, President Warren G. Harding established **National Hospital Day** on May 12 — chosen to honor **Florence Nightingale's** birthday.

1921
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 29, 1921.

My dear Mr. Polley:

It is especially a pleasure at this time to express my interest in the work of the National Hospital Day, which seems to address the urgent possible public interest in the work of the country's hospitals and similar institutions. You have most properly chosen May 12th, the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, as the day to be celebrated as National Hospital Day. Just as that time those of us who are concerned in the administration of hospitals are having our attention focused on the very great need of organized hospital medical affairs, I can most heartily extend my wishes for the most useful results from your plans for the next year.

Very truly yours,
Warren G. Harding

John O. Polley
Alma Sawyer
South Dearborn Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Healing Happens Here
National Hospital Week | May 10-16, 2026

American Hospital Association
Advancing Health in America

Updated 4/30/2026

In 1965, the Chicago Hospital Council had a surprise guest at its **National Hospital Week** celebration — legendary comedian **Bob Hope**!



Bob Hope Is Surprise Guest at Chicago Event

CHICAGO. — The Chicago Hospital Council held its annual luncheon at the Conrad Hilton Hotel here in May at which it honored the patient and employee of the year. The luncheon was a highlight of National Hospital Week.

Comedian Bob Hope was a surprise guest of honor, speaking to a delighted audience for the last 20 minutes on the program, agreeing with the theme of the luncheon that "people are the heart of the hospital." The Very Rev. [Name] was the Council's president.



National Hospital Week
May 10-16, 2026



For **National Hospital Week** in 1966, AHA Chairman **Dr. Philip D. Bonnet** appeared on the nationally syndicated radio show **Kaleidoscope**. Dr. Bonnet's interview was saved for posterity on a **Mini 33 RPM LP**— aka tiny vinyl!



National Hospital Week
May 10-16, 2026



In 1953, National Hospital Day expanded into **National Hospital Week**, the week-long recognition we know today.



National Hospital Week
May 10-16, 2026

