

Wayne Mattern RN, BSN

I have been a registered nurse since 1976. In this time I have worked in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Emergency Department (ER), the Operating Room (OR). Along this journey I have met a lot of great people, both patients and coworkers. The question what do I find rewarding about Nursing is pretty easy to answer. EVERYTHING!!! It is not about fame or money (God knows are underpaid) or the working hours (because He also knows the type of hours nurses put in). It is about being part of a team. A team that dedicates it's working hours to helping others. Be it in the OR, ER, ICU, or any of the units that Nurses work this team helps alleviate pain or fear, offer a sympathetic ear, or a shoulder to lean or cry on. They sit quietly with families at the time a life may end or celebrate with them when a new life begins. These nurses miss birthdays, holidays, graduations, first steps or first words because it's their shift to work or the emergency pager goes off while they are on call or their unit is just too short or too busy to leave their patients or just as important their coworkers. My wife is a Nurse as is my daughter and my son hopes to be accepted to the Nursing Program at Eastern Michigan University. Why did I or any one become a Nurse? PRIDE, DEDICATION, COMPASSION, CARING? Yes, all the above and so much more.