

THANK YOU SPEECH ON TAN CHIN TUAN NURSING AWARD

Minister for Health, Mr Khaw Boon Wan, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Today we celebrate the second year of the Tan Chin Tuan Nursing Award. Those of you who were here last year will know that this date was specially chosen: November 21 marks the anniversary of my grandfather's birth.

On behalf of my family, relatives and friends, may I thank Aunty Della and Uncle Seng Gee for this wonderful gesture of remembering my late grandfather, Tan Sri Tan Chin Tuan, with the Tan Chin Tuan Nursing Award.

I am truly honored and happy to see the continuation of this multi-generational friendship that started with my grandfather.

Much thought has gone into the Tan Chin Tuan Nursing Award. Launched by the DS Lee Foundation a year ago, Aunty Della wisely remembered my grandfather's philosophy of celebrating life: "Think of others and remember how much they have helped you".

In remembering how each of us has been helped by another, we remember to be grateful. When we are grateful we remember that there is much to be thankful for, and we are blessed.

Tonight, we celebrate a group of individuals who toil daily within our health care sector and who, too often, are taken for granted.

(TURN BEHIND TO LOOK AT THEM) Today, we thank and honour these 21st century Florence Nightingales. Without them, our suffering during illness would be much greater.

To the enrolled nurses who have won the awards, all of us say "Congratulations!". It is a noble path that you have chosen and tonight we come to remember and honour you.

To all nurses here tonight, on behalf of my family, the DS Lee Foundation and the many people you have so kindly nursed and helped, we say " Thank you". For without you, our suffering would have been worse.

Thank you too, to our Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Health, Mr Khaw Boon Wan for gracing this event. We also thank the distinguished panel of judges, including Madam Halimah Yaacob and Mrs Lee Siu Yin. Ms Mary Anne Tan for putting together a delightful group of performers and musicians; Dr Thomas Sim for having chosen those meaningful words that express our gratitude in the song "Nurses, You Light Up Our Lives", as well as the management and staff of the National University Hospital (NUH) for supporting this event.

And to the many family and friends who have made the effort to come here tonight to join us on this special occasion, thank you all.

Finally, Aunty Della, thank you once again for reminding us to think of these special people. Your magnanimity of spirit is a lesson for us all.

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