

**OUR “TIRED AGAIN”\* L&D CHARGE NURSE!  
\*(re-tired)**

From time-cards to phone-ins, the time-clock ticked on  
Till her night-shift schedule forever is gone.  
From care at the bedside to paperwork’s bane,  
She’s free from the updates she knew were insane.

Oh don’t be deceived, though she always displayed  
A calmness at pains the new protocols made,  
She helped us comply despite times we felt lost—  
She knew they eventually, too, would be tossed.

Though that’s over now, she already has missed  
The sight of the newborns new mothers have kissed.  
For that was her thrill—making sure every kid  
Got born on their birthdays, as all of us did.

Yet we never felt all the burdens she bore  
Enforcing the rules that kept growing galore,  
Or staying awake, as her sleepy night crew  
Would nod through staff meetings, or did she doze too?

What pressure she knew while perpetually squeezed  
From keeping both us and her managers pleased.  
As triage admits came in crowds through the door,  
She pitched in to help get our moms to the floor.

Though drafted for Pyxis discrepancy checks  
And wondering what she would have us do next,  
We treasure the wealth of the blessings we’ve known  
From counsel she gave and her kindnesses shown.

Her style was a mother’s, not that of a sarge,  
And all of the staff mourn her loss as a charge,  
But let’s join her joy, for her job is now done,  
career is complete, and retirement won!

— *David L. Hatton, 11/9/2019*