Statement by Melisia Hanley

7/16/25

It was an honor to serve as the alternate representative for the 2025 ANA Membership Assembly in Washington, D.C. This experience was truly inspiring. I had the opportunity to witness the dedication and passion of nurses from across the nation, all advocating for meaningful change in healthcare.

One of the most impactful moments was visiting the offices of Florida’s U.S. Senators and Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett. Participating in these meetings showed me firsthand how nurses can influence policy and represent their communities nationally. It was an experience I never imagined having and one I will cherish.

Although we were not able to complete all the business on the agenda due to the volume of proposed bylaw amendments, the discussions were rich and informative. Being an attendee for the first time, I learned much from delegates who participated in previous assemblies. Their experience helped guide me, and I am proud to have represented VISNA alongside them.

Respectfully submitted,

Melisia Hanley, MSN RN