

ASSAULTED WHILE ON DUTY

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“THERE WAS A LOUD CRASHING NOISE AS I LOST MY VISION”

I earned my nursing degree in 2006 at the age of 50. In my short career of only 10 years, I’ve been the victim of violence 3 different times.

The first time I thought I was going to die as I passed out in a choke hold. That assault required a CAT scan to rule out broken facial bones. The second time it cost me a molar when a patient, who was trained boxer, hit me twice in the same spot. The third time, eight months ago was different though, I immediately knew I was not right.

The first sign I had been hit was a loud crashing noise and loss of vision. I had a difficult time retaining balance. When my vision returned, someone handed me my glasses and the pain started. I was struck on the left cheek. Again. For several days I was confused, angry, moody, unhappy. I endured a substantial concussion that might end my career.

My first shift back to work 10 days later was short-staffed with elevated patient behavior. As the Charge Nurse, I was responsible for everyone’s safety, so I called security several times. It was not a therapeutic environment and caused significant psychological damage for me. It was the straw that broke my will to continue, and I have not found safe employment that is a match for my skillset since.



YOUR NURSE WEARS COMBAT BOOTS

*Improving
Workplace Safety
for Healthcare Workers*



Montana Nurses Association

20 Old MT State Hwy

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**For more information:
www.mtnurses.org**

Did You Know?

In 2014, the median number of days away from work for lost-time, private-sector injury cases was

9 days

(an increase of one full day from 2013)

Source: AFL-CIO Death on the Job Report, April 2016