



Irene Zieske

May 23, 1915 - March 21, 2009

Irene Zieske was one of only 500 female, WWII combat nurses. As a lieutenant, she landed at Utah Beach with Patton's 1st Division, 3rd Army and served in a field hospital (ala the TV series MASH, but not nearly so glamorous) on the front lines through France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia, finally ending her European service caring for the survivors of the holocaust concentration camp at Mauthausen, Germany.

Irene's accomplishments were all the more remarkable considering her small town roots in Albany, Minnesota where having lost her father at age ten, she went on to become valedictorian of her high school class. Unable to accept a college scholarship due to lack of adequate, personal funds, she paid her own way through St. Mary's School of Nursing in Minneapolis and subsequently volunteered for WWII Army duty, insisting on combat nurse assignment despite poor eyesight. After returning to civilian nursing, Irene reentered the Army Nurse Corp during the Korean War and afterward went on to a distinguished, peacetime, military career winning many commendations and awards for her untiring, medical service throughout the world, including subsequent assignments in Japan, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Missouri, and California. Irene passed away on March 21, 2009 at 93 years of age at the Illinois Veterans' Home in Manteno IL. Internment at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Joliet IL. She is survived by her brother Raymond Zieske of Moorestown NJ and nephew Randolph (Pat) Zieske of Rolling Meadows IL. She was preceded in death by her parents Charles William Zieske and Helen

(Spaeth) Zieske and by her sister-in-law Ann Zieske. In lieu of flowers, contributions to Hospice of Kankakee Valley, 482 Main St., Bourbonnais IL 60914, a not-for-profit organization.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 03:17 PM



“ *Our sincere appreciation for Irene's tireless efforts on the behalf of her country and fellow man. There are no words to express our pride in being a member of her extended family.

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March 22, 2009 at 02:36 PM