

# Wartime Nurse Heroes Recognition

Special Session

Sigma Theta Tau International

November 10, 2015

# Presenters

- **William Campbell**, Ed.D, MSN, RN (Salisbury University, MD)
- **Evelyn Hayes**, PhD, MPH, RN, FNP-BC (University of Delaware)
  - Colonel (Ret), USAR, Army Nurse Corps
- **Doris “Dee” Lippman**, Ed.D, MeD, BSN, APRN-BC, FAAN (Faculty Emeritus, Fairfield University, CT)
  - Captain (Ret), U.S. Army, Army Nurse Corps

“When you cease to  
honor your heroes,  
you cease  
to produce them.”

October 23, 1912  
Dedication  
Olostee Battlefield Monument  
Florida, USA

# History

- Need for recognition
- Resolutions, 2011, 2013
- Taskforce
  - Call November 2013
  - Wartime Nurse Heroes Task Force (WNHTF) 2014-2015
  - Recommendations

# WNHTF

## Other Taskforce Members:

- **Chair: Patricia D'Antonio**, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN (University of Pennsylvania)
- **Christine Hallett**, PhD (U. of Manchester, UK)
- **Thelma Sword**, EdD, RN (Faculty Emeritus, Graceland University, MO)
- **Dorette “Dee” Welk**, PhD, RN (Bloomsburg U., PA)
- **Kelly Wolgast**, DNP, RN, FACHE, FAAN (Vanderbilt U., TN)
  - Colonel (Ret), U.S. Army
- **Board Liaison: Thóra Hafsteinsdóttir**, PhD, RN, (University of Utrecht, Netherlands), STTI Director
- **Staff Liaison: Kimberly Thompson**, MLS, Manager, Virginia Henderson Global Nursing e-Repository

# Taskforce

Charge from BOD or Outcomes:

1. **Identify** ways to recognize nurses who have served their country through military service.
2. **Recommend** ways to share their stories with STTI members throughout the biennium.

# Early Discussions

- Definition of “nurse”
- Definition of “hero”
- Definition of “wartime”
- Rename taskforce → MNRTF
  - Military Nurse Recognition Taskforce
- Who, scope, size, limits?

# 12 Recommendations

- Recognition at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Convention
- Add “military status” to renewal form
- Collection of nominees and their stories
- e-Repository - Virginia Henderson Global Nursing
- Dissemination – Wall of Fame, Honor Roll, loop
- Special Session
  - Abstract
  - Acceptance



# Global Call to Action

“Serve locally, transform regionally, lead globally”



# Call for Nominees

- US nominees – selection by the presenters
- Julie Jones, Chair RCCC, and Regional Coordinators
  - Europe
  - Asia
  - Oceania
  - Africa
  - Latin America
- The committee members searched for nominees
- Africa under-represented – call by Pres Klopper
- The silent profession
- Power in numbers, but must have power in voices

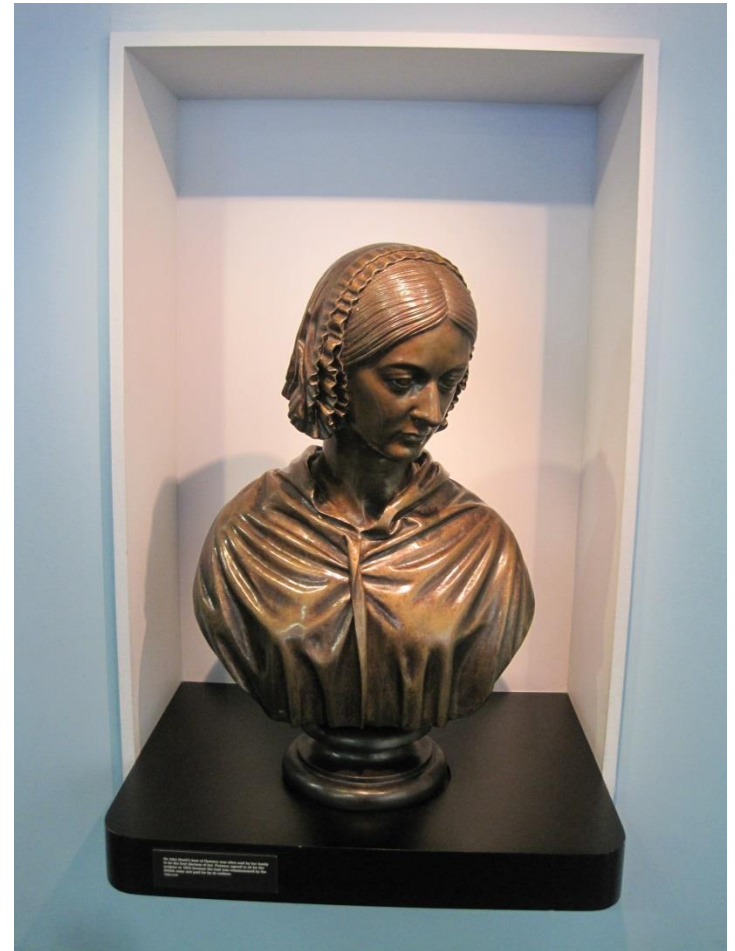
# RECOGNITION OF WARTIME NURSE HEROES

By The Wartime Nurse Heroes  
Taskforce (WNHTF, 2014-15)

# Early Nurse Hero, U.K.

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

- 1<sup>st</sup> “nurse hero”
- Crimean War
- Fought parents, public opinion, military, doctors, diseases
- Defined a profession
- Only 12 of her 38 nurses survived
- Florence sick for the rest of her life with Brucellosis



Bust in Florence Nightingale Museum, London  
Photo by W. Campbell

# Early Nurse Hero, U.S.



Public Domain

Clara Barton (1821-1912)

- American Civil War “nurse”
- Frequently risked her life on the battlefield
- Missing Soldiers Office
- Andersonville
- American Red Cross

# Early Nurse Hero, U.S.

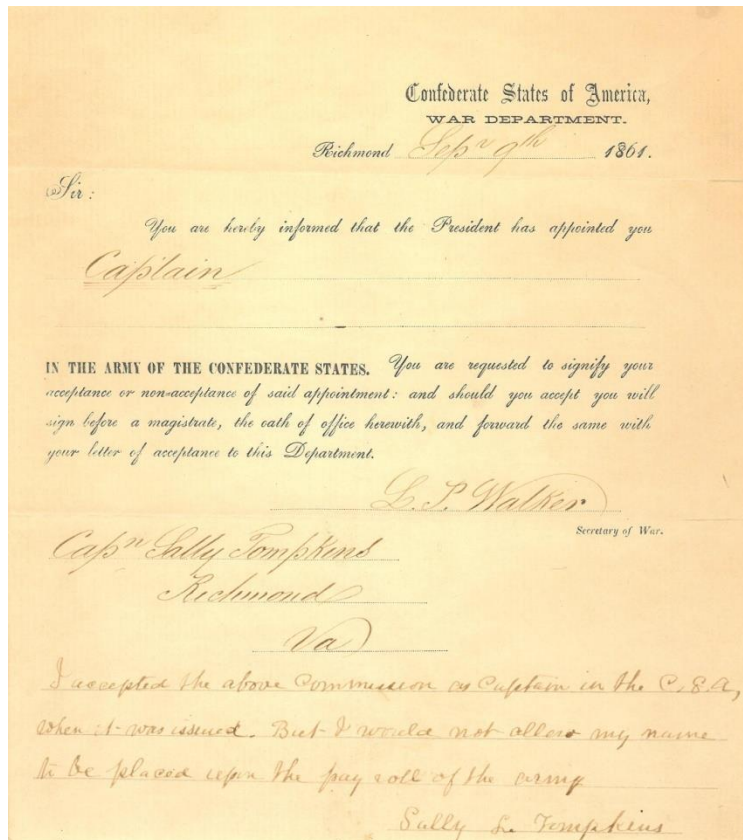
Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888)

- Hospital nurse during the American Civil War
- Contracted typhoid
- Almost died
- Treated with mercury
- Father rescued her
- Her supervisor, Hannah Ropes, died of typhoid



Public Domain

# Early Nurse Hero, North America



National Museum of the Confederacy  
Richmond, VA

Sally Tompkins (1833-1916)

- Robertson Hospital in Richmond, VA
- Excellent patient outcomes
- Due for closure
- Commissioned as a Captain in the Confederate States Army
- Richmond under siege, shelled, burnt, and evacuated

# 20<sup>th</sup> Century WWI US Nurses

- First as Red Cross Volunteers even before US entered the war
- Later as US Army Nurse Corps
- First time that large numbers of female nurses were on or near the front lines
- Nurses were battle casualties
- Influenza pandemic



Photograph by presenter W. Campbell,  
Poster from his personal collection



# 20<sup>th</sup> Century WWII US Nurses

## “Angels of Bataan”



US Gov't photo, Public Domain at  
<http://history.amedd.army.mil/newsletters.html>

- 99 US nurses trapped in the Philippines
- Japanese attacked
- In Manila, unprotected and evacuated
- Then in jungles of Bataan
- Then in tunnels of Corregidor, surrendered
- Then in internment camps as POWs, starvation
- 3 yr ordeal before rescue
- An example to the men

# Global Nominees

Dr. Evelyn Hayes

Colonel (Ret), USAR, Army Nurse Corps

# Nurse Hero, Europe

Edith Cavell, 1865-1915  
(nominated by Rho Chi at  
large chapter)



- Nurse training at London Hospital; worked Shoreditch Infirmary; matron at new nursing school, The Berkendael Medical Institute, Brussels
- Pioneer of modern nursing in Belgium

# Nurse Hero, Europe

- WWI: Cavell funneled soldiers from Belgium to neutral Netherlands
- Wounded soldiers and civilians of military age (British and French) hidden from Germans
- Arrested on 3 August 1915, charged, and held in prison
- Penalty was death (German military law)

# Nurse Hero, Europe

- “Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone”
- Cavell executed, 7am 12 October 1915.
- Prominent British female casualty of WWI
- Calendar of Saints, Commemoration of Cavell is 12 October.
- Cavell featured on centenary coin.



# Nurse Hero, Europe

Nellie Spindler 1891-1917  
(nominated by Phi Mu chapter)



- Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service
- 44<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station (CCS)
- 1<sup>st</sup> day Battle of Passendale, CSS flooded with wounded
- Killed in action; age 26
- Same day 44<sup>th</sup> CSS evacuated to Lijssenthoek
- Buried next day; still lies there, only woman among 10,800 men.
- "A Noble Type of Good Heroic Womanhood"

# Nurse Hero, Europe

Violetta Thurstan (1879-1978)



Miss Violetta Thurstan

*Violetta\_Thurstan.JPG* More  
[1914-1918.invisionzone.com](http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com)

- Volunteers lacking in training/preparation
- Book: Field Hospital and Flying Column
- Served in Belgium, Russia, Poland, France, & Macedonia
- Awarded 8 medals including British award for valor

# Nurse Heroes, Europe

Elsie Knocker 1884-1978  
(and Mairi Chisholm)



*Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chisholm in their Wolseley Ambulance, Pervyse ...*  
[www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk)

- WWI. Save more lives by treating injured soldiers on the front lines
- Battlefield rescues on Western Front in Belgium
- Awarded British Military Medal, Officer of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem



# Nurse Hero, Europe

Maud McCarthy  
(1859-1949)



Photo of Matron Chief Emma **Maud McCarthy**  
[livesofthefirstworldwar.org](http://livesofthefirstworldwar.org)

- British Army, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service
- Principal matron of War Office
- WWI to France as Chief Matron
- Awarded Royal Red Cross First Class with Bar, made Dame of British Empire

# Nurse Heroes, Asia region

## Pakistani Polio Vaccination Nurses

Note: Photo removed  
to protect  
identity of nurse

- Anger and distrust; vaccine workers murdered by Taliban
- HCPs caught counterterrorism or humanitarian aid
- Challenge & new initiatives
- Self protection

A Pakistani health worker marks the finger of an Afghan refugee child after giving her a polio vaccine.

Photo by Associated Press.

# Nurse Heroes, Asia region

## Turkish Nurses during Cholera Epidemic in Balkan War

- Epidemic added to sick and wounded soldiers to be treated; mass migration to Istanbul created havoc
- Red Crescent Society: “pivotal role in orientation of Turkish women toward nursing”
- Promote awareness of female nurses via paintings, postcards & stamps
- 1954 Centenary of Florence Nightingale arrival in Istanbul, birth of modern nursing

# Nurse Hero, Asia region

Nie Yuchan

- Dean, Peking Medical College School of Nursing
- Joined the Chinese exodus during the War of Resistance
- Reopened her School maintaining confidence of nurses both in Free and Occupied China

# Nurse Hero, Brazil, Latin American & Caribbean region

Ana Neri (1814-1880)

- Triple Alliance in the Paraguayan War
- Founded nursing home
- Introduced modern nursing in Brazil
- First official nursing school named after her (1926)
- Awarded Silver and Humanitarian Campaign Medals



# Nurse Hero, Lebanon, Africa region

Gladys Mauro

- Civil war; persistence and survival
- American Nurse Against All Chaos
- Spearheaded Magnet journey at American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC); 1<sup>st</sup> Magnet facility in Middle East and 1<sup>st</sup> shared governance structure hospital
- International consultant and advisor
- STTI, Board of Directors, 2011-2013

# Nurse Hero, Africa region

M. G. Makua

- (nominated by Africa Region)
- Nurse educator, midwife
- Deployed by South African National Defense Force
- Officer and Chief Professional Nurse, Peace Keeping Operation for United Nations in Burundi
- As trained aviation nurse, responsible for patient evacuation
- Received United Nations Medal for Peace Keeping Operation

# Nurse Hero, Africa region

Sr. Liz Willson-Chandler

- (nominated by Africa Region)
- “Wound Healer” in humanitarian work
- Gift of the Givers (GOTG)
- Smuggled into war zone in Syria
- Adventurer extraordinaire



# Nurse Hero, Australia, Oceania region

Mary Anne Taylor

- Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS)
- Australians wanted to prove themselves to British Empire
- Decided to go to war (also brother, Jim); sent to Egypt to prepare
- Turkish rained bullets on Anzac troops (1915); took over amusement park to care for injured

# Nurse Hero, Australia, Oceania region

Alice Ross-King (1887-1968)

- Casualty Clearing Station near Armenteries (France) bombed by German air attack; horror and carnage followed
- Service under military fire
- Earned Military medal for “great coolness and devotion to duty”
- Awarded Associate Royal Red Cross

# Nurse Hero, Australia, Oceania region

Vivian Bullwinkel (1915-2000)



- Australian Army Nursing Service
- Only survivor in Banka Island massacre; survived for weeks in jungle caring for British soldiers.
- Forced to surrender and imprisoned
- Australia's premier nurse war hero

# Wartime Nurse Heroes

Florence Nightingale, Clara Barton, Louisa May Alcott, Sally Tompkins, all Nurses of WWI, all Nurses of WWII, Edith Cavell, Nellie Spindler, Violetta Thurstan, Elsie Knocker, Maud McCarthy, Pakistani Polio Vaccination Nurses, Turkish Nurses in Balkan War, Nie Yuchan, Ana Neri, Gladys Mauro, M. G. Makua, Sr. Liz Willson-Chandler, Mary Anne Taylor, Alice Ross-King, Vivian Bullwinkel, all Nurses of Mexican War, Spanish American War, Korean conflict, Vietnam, the Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, Middle East, Syria, the African conflicts, & ... & ... & ...

# INVISIBILITY

INVISIBILITY

INVISIBILITY

INVISIBILITY

INVISIBILITY

# “MY STORY”



Dr. Dee Lippman  
Captain (Ret)  
U.S. Army  
Army Nurse Corps

Vietnam  
1967 - 1969

# Vietnam Women's Memorial



Photograph by presenter W. Campbell



## Nurse Monuments and Memorials

Photos by W. Campbell,  
presenter





# They gave their all...

- WWI 138 women lost including at least 138 nurses
  - WWII 109 “ “ 36 “
  - Korea 17 “ “ 14 “
  - Vietnam 68 “ “ 13 “
  - Kuwait 15 “ “ 0 “
  - Iraq/OIF 124 “ “ 3 “
  - Afghanistan 111 “ “ 3 “
- These represent only U.S. numbers of women & nurses lost, there were many more globally...

“MAY WE NEVER  
FORGET THE SACRIFICE  
THAT A FEW MADE  
FOR MANY”

# Questions



# Answers

# or Comments