



Nurse Corps News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

MAY 13, 2008

Navy Nurse Corps Directors' Centennial Birthday Message

We are a Nation at War, and the true mission of the Navy Nurse Corps both today and in 1908 when we were first established by Congress, has remained unchanged; caring for our warriors as they go into harm's way. We mend the wounds of war; wounds, both visible and invisible. What links us with our predecessors who served 100 years ago and every day in between is indeed what makes us unique...and it is indeed that which called us to naval service in the first place. Each of us joined the Navy Nurse Corps looking to make a difference, to do our part, and to serve this great country that we love. We left our comfort zones, our families and friends, and our hometowns in search of a life that would give us more meaning. For each of us, the stories may be different, but I'm sure all would say that being a part of the Navy Nurse Corps has exceeded all expectations, and has provided incredible personal and professional rewards. Our colleagues are our lifelong friends and we have served with them in varied practice environments: overseas, onboard ships, in medical centers, in clinics, in MEDEVAC helos, in tents, in austere conditions and under the hostile conditions of war. As a result, the Navy Nurse Corps has given us a rich life without regret and a life that will never be the same.

We took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. We face the challenges of national service with a willingness to embrace the unknown and seek adventures, whether at peace or at war. As leaders, at all ranks, we are given opportunities and responsibilities often reserved for someone more senior or experienced. And each time, we, as Navy Nurses, accomplished more than others thought possible. The Navy Nurse Corps has taught us all so much; built upon a foundation that encompasses hard work, lifelong learning, cooperation, and teamwork, always challenging... always memorable. While we were drawn to the Navy Nurse Corps for different reasons: service to country, education, travel, family, friends or to follow a dream; we all stayed for the same reasons. We care deeply for our patients, our corpsmen and being part of something bigger than ourselves. We are honored to serve the men and women of the Navy and Marine Corps, ensuring their health and readiness and nursing their wounds in their hour of need.

The practice of Nursing has changed over the last 100 years with research and technology, but the basic tenets of the profession are unchanged and timeless. We volunteered to wear the uniform, to practice our profession in a different environment and through this we have unlocked the secrets to our humanity and what is most important about caring for those willing to make the supreme sacrifice. Thanks to the generations of Navy Nurses who moved us forward through other wars, we have a solid foundation in which to meet the challenge of tomorrow. Our junior officers are our future and based on the passion and competence I see daily, our future looks bright indeed. We exist because we were and are mission essential. They needed us then; they need us now. We can be proud of what we have done and should be inspired by what we have left to do in the next 100 years; for we are Navy Nurses! As your Director, I am proud, I am humbled and I salute you. Happy 100th Birthday, Navy Nurse Corps!

RADM Christine Bruzek-Kohler, NC, USN

RDML Karen Flaherty, NC, USN

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



NAVY NURSE CORPS
CENTENNIAL WREATH
LAYING CEREMONY
PG 2

USS BOXER'S
CONTINUING PROMISE
MISSION
PG 3

CELEBRATING NAVY
NURSE CORPS
CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY
PG 5

CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY
FESTIVITIES AROUND
THE GLOBE
PG 6



Navy Nurse Corps Centennial Wreath Laying Ceremony



The Navy Nurse Corps memorialized their 100th anniversary of dedicated service with a wreath laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial in downtown Washington, D.C., on Friday, May 2. The official Navy Nurse Corps 100th Anniversary day is Tuesday, May 13. Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan, (Ret), President and CEO, U. S. Navy Memorial hosted the event. Rear Admiral Christine Bruzek-Kohler, NC, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps and Chief of Staff, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED); Rear Admiral Karen Flaherty, NC, Director Navy Nurse Corps Reserve; and John F. Mulhern, Director, U.S. Navy Memorial were among the honored guests and participants in the ceremony. Captain Kathleen Pierce, Deputy Director Navy Nurse Corps was Master of Ceremonies. “What links us with our Navy Nurse Corps predecessors who served 100 years ago, and throughout the years, is what makes us unique—it is what called us to naval service. Each of us joined the Navy Nurse Corps looking to make a difference and to serve this great country we love,” said Bruzek-Kohler. “We left our comfort zones, our families and friends. For each of us, I’m sure all of us would say that being part of the Navy Nurse

Corps has exceeded all expectations and has provided incredible personal and professional rewards. The Navy Nurse Corps has given us a rich life without regret and a life that will never be the same.”

As a symbol of respect and honor to the Navy Nurses who have served and are currently serving, and for those Navy Nurses who have died, Bruzek-Kohler, Flaherty, and Mulhern placed a wreath at the foot of the Lone Sailor Statue at the memorial while the Navy Band played *Taps*. “To be a nurse takes a special person. The amount of training, study, and the level of responsibility is awesome. Nurses who join the Navy are very special people. I personally know how special Navy Nurses are because I have been happily married to one for the past 39 years,” said Mulhern.

The true mission of the Navy Nurse Corps, both today and in 1908 when the corps was first established, has remained unchanged - caring for our nation’s warriors as they go into harm’s way. Nurses play an invaluable role in Navy Medicine. Nurses are relied upon for their clinical expertise and are recognized for their impressive ability to collaborate with a host of other healthcare disciplines in caring for our warriors, their families and the retired community. Navy Nurses are essential to Navy Medicine’s Force Health Protection mission.

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Naval Appropriations Bill authorizing the establishment of the Nurse Corps as a unique staff corps of the Navy on May 13, 1908. The first applications to the Nurse Corps were sent by women from around the nation to BUMED, the headquarters of Navy Medicine. These candidates were required to travel to Washington, D.C., at their own expense and take oral and written examinations.

The first members of the Nurse Corps included Superintendent Esther Hasson, Chief Nurse Lenah Higbee, and 18 other women. These women, known as the “Sacred Twenty,” established the foundation of service and caring that



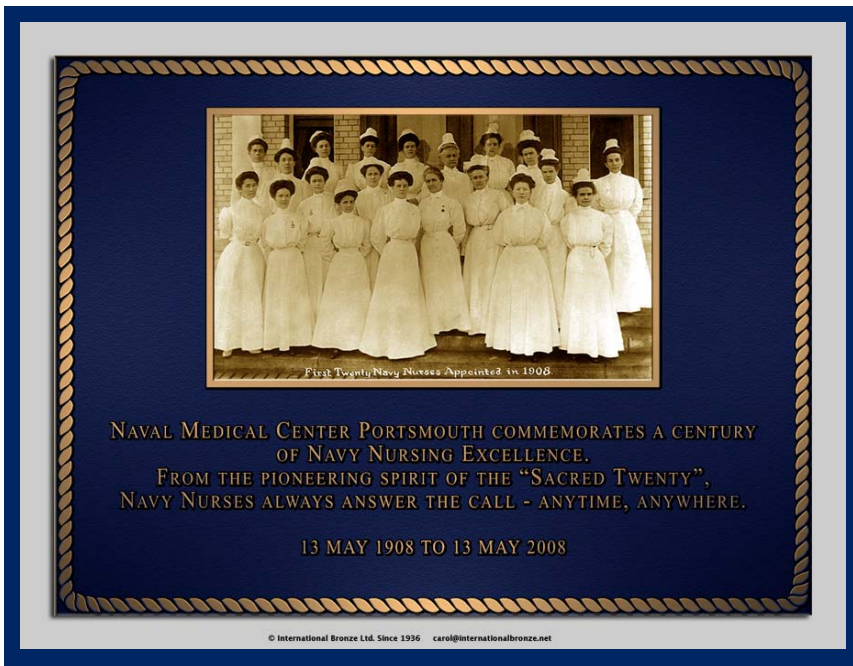
Navy Nurse Corps Centennial Wreath Laying Ceremony (Cont).

defines the Navy Nurse Corps.

Over 4,000 active duty and reserve Navy nurses are serving in operational, humanitarian, and traditional missions on the home front and abroad. These men and women provide professional nursing care in peacetime and wartime under ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. Navy nurses are essential to Navy Medicine's Force Health Protection mission, integrating compassion with discipline, individuality with conformity, and wellness promotion with wartime readiness.

Christine A. Mahoney

Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs



Sacred Twenty pioneered the spirit "Anytime— Anywhere". Plaque do be displayed at NMC Portsmouth

Call for Articles for Navy Medicine

Navy Medicine is the official publication of the U.S. Navy Medical Department. It is published bimonthly by the Department of the Navy, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. We are planning to have a special edition for the Navy Nurse Corps and are asking for your contributions. Please submit an article for consideration. For further information and author guidelines:

<http://navyhistory.med.navy.mil/Publications/NavyMedicineMagazine.html>

Deadline is 30 June 2008

USS Boxer's Continuing Promise Mission

U.S. Navy nurses aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4) celebrated the centennial of the Navy Nurse Corps by providing medical care to the people of Guatemala as part of the Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA) mission Continuing Promise (CP) 2008. CP is an equal partnership mission designed to combine partner nation and U.S. relief capabilities to demonstrate the lasting bonds and shared interests among neighbors. "It's more than being a nurse in the Navy," said CDR Angelica Almonte, head nurse for CP 2008. "It's caring to serve, and serving to care. That ranges from caring for our own wounded sailors, compassion for the enemy, or caring for a sick child in one of our partner nations."

The nurses held a small celebration aboard Boxer, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps a week prior to the actual anniversary date so their energies could be focused on the mission at hand. The celebration included keynote addresses by CAPT Peter Dallman, mission commander of CP 2008 and CAPT Louis Orosz, Medical Contingent Commander and the Officer in Charge of Fleet



USS Boxer's Continuing Promise Mission (Cont).

Surgical Team (FST) 5.

Several nurses credit medical professionals during their younger years as the catalyst for them becoming nurses. "My mother was a nurse, and my father was a Master Chief. Being a Navy Nurse was one way I could honor both of them."



Navy Nurses aboard USS Boxer LHD-4, celebrating the 100th Centennial during Operation Continuing Promise 2008.

of the legacy of the Navy Nurse Corps and their commitment to serve others. "I became a nurse to do for others, not just myself," said ENS Rebecca Retzlaff, a nurse whose home station is the Marine Corps base at Camp Le Jeune, N.C. "This mission is the embodiment of what Navy nurses do; we go where and when we are needed." According to Almonte, a common creed heard in the Navy Nurse Corps is "an ounce of humanity is worth a pound of war."

FST 5 is leading an expeditionary medical team of more than 100 specialized health care providers who will team up with partner-nation counterparts. Their capabilities include general primary care, dental, optometry, pharmaceutical, preventive medicine and public health assessments, medical and nursing education, veterinary, and bio-medical equipment repair. Embarked units and organizations aboard Boxer for CP include FST 5, Amphibious Squadron 5, U.S. Public Health Service, Project Hope, Project Handclasp, Navy Seabee Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, Tactical Air Control Squadron 11, Special Marine Air Ground Task Force 24, Helicopter Sea Combat Support Squadron 23, Assault Craft Unit 1 and Beach Master Unit 1.

said Almonte. "As a child, I was in the emergency room a lot," said LT Andrew O'Dea, a nurse from National Navy Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. "I really identified with the idea of someone patching me up when I was hurt." For many nurses serving in CP 2008, being in the field helping others is the perfect way to commemorate the anniversary of the Nurse Corps.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime," said LT Carmen Harmon. "When I found out I was going on this mission, I was very excited. This is something close and dear to my heart. It's not a job; it's a labor of love." For these nurses, the rewards of this mission far outweigh the challenges associated with it. It's a common sentiment among them that language barriers, climate, and conditions of the geographical area are all secondary to the greater good that they will accomplish. They view the mission as a continuation



CDR Angela Wilkins and CDR Angelica Almonte count medications to be dispensed during Operation Continuing Promise 2008.

MC3 (SW/AW) Brian Gaines

USS Boxer (LHD 4) Public Affairs

Celebrating Navy Nurse Corps Centennial Birthday



Master of Ceremonies CAPT Kathleen Pierce with Navy Chaplain, Hon. John F. Mulhern, RDML Karen Flaherty, and RADM Christine Bruzek-Kohler



Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Navy Nurse Corps Officers on the front steps of Building One



CAPT Peter Dallman, CDR Angela Wilkins, ENS Rebecca Retzlaff, and CAPT Louis Orosz cutting a cake in celebration of the Navy Nurse Corps Centennial in USS Boxer's (LHD 4) wardroom



RADM Christine Bruzek-Kohler and LT Heather Ennis cutting the Centennial Navy Nurse Corps cake



Navy Color Guard at the Centennial Wreath Laying ceremony



Navy Nurse Corp's wreath laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC



Centennial Navy Nurse Corps cake at BUMED

Centennial Birthday Festivities Around the Globe

In conjunction with both Nurses' Week and the 100th Birthday of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, the Nurse's Association at Naval Hospital Naples is planning several activities to include accepting collections for a local orphanage, hosting a cake cutting ceremony for the 100th Birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps, hosting a potluck breakfast, 1k and 5K fun run, 100th Birthday Bash dinner, and conducting an Admiral's Call with RDML Flaherty, Deputy Director of the US Navy Nurse Corps Reserve Component.

Naval Hospital Sigonella's Navy Nurse Corps Birthday Celebration will be highlighted by a cake cutting ceremony with RDML Karen Flaherty, networking with Sigonella Community Nurses, and dinner with RDML Flaherty. For further information LT Dave Porter is the POC. David.Porter@med.navy.mil

If you would like to share an article and/or pictures about your command's birthday festivities, please e-mail the NC News Editor, LCDR Kathleen Harlow. We will post these throughout the year.



Front Row: LT Lori Campbell and CDR Lenora Langlais. Back Row : Qin Chen (NMC San Diego), Sarah Buckley (NH Camp Pendleton), ENS Caballa (NMC San Diego), Reginald Ligeralde (NCP applicant), Sarah DeDios (NCP applicant), Lora Townsend (NH Guantanamo Bay) and Kimberlee Tyler (NH Camp Lejeune) representing some of our newest Navy Nurse Corps Officers awaiting their first assignment



Pictured from left to right: LCDR Dan Swisshelm, LCDR Michael Howe, LT Patricia Butler, LT Emily Bukauskas, LT David Porter, CDR Tammy Jones, LT Rebecca Geurts, LTjg Thomas Matella, LT Rachel Sorensen, LT Ruben Lopez, LCDR Rachel Lewis, CAPT Catherine Tymensky (DNS), CAPT Helen Pearlman (CO).

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Happy
 Birthday
 100
 Years




**United States
 Navy Nurse Corps**

Want to write a news article for
 Nurse Corps News?
 Submit your article via your chain of
 command to:
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