



ARMY MEDICINE'S LEGACY OF CARE

COMBAT READY CARE ... THIS WE'LL DEFEND!

YESTERDAY, TODAY, ALWAYS - SAVING LIVES SINCE 1775!



MAY 5 – MAY 11, 2025

86 DAYS
MAY 2 - JUL 27



May 5, 1968

Sharon A. Lane, Army Nurse Corps Reserve, begins training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. One year later, Lane became the only U.S. military nurse killed by enemy fire in the Vietnam War.

FEATURE



May 6, 1942

"Angels of Bataan and Corregidor"
On this day, Bataan and Corregidor fell and 77 U.S. military nurses were taken prisoner in the Philippines. While imprisoned, they provided lifesaving care to POWs in the Santo Tomas and Los Banos Internment Camps, where they were held from 1942–1945.



May 7, 1970

PFC Kenneth M. Kays earns the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. Kays, an aidman with the 101st Airborne Division, moved and treated troops even after part of his leg was removed by an explosion.

WEEK IN REVIEW

May 8, 1945

Known as Victory in Europe Day or VE Day, celebrations erupted around the world to mark the end of World War II in Europe. The war had been raging for almost five years when U.S. and Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. During peak strength in 1944, Army Medicine had approximately 700,000 military personnel and 150,000 civilians world-wide.

May 9, 1944

The Army Service Forces Commanding General, at the request of the Surgeon General, approves the establishment of an emergency training course for occupational therapists. The emergency training program was a response to the need for more occupational therapists to assist in the treatment of patients, especially those who were disabled or injured during World War II. The program aimed to rapidly train individuals to meet the Army's medical demands during the war.

May 10, 1956

The 807th Hospital Center is activated in Galveston, Texas. Later redesignated as the 807th Medical Brigade and currently the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support). The 807th is one of our two theater medical commands (TMCs) residing in the Army Reserve. TMCs provide essential medical command and control, ensuring support to line commanders.

May 11, 1917

The first U.S. Army units, including hospitals from the Army Reserve, sailed for France as part of the American Expeditionary Forces. This marked the beginning of U.S. involvement in World War I on the European front. During the most lethal time in the war, it was common for the hospitals to admit 1,000 patients and complete over 100 operations in a day.

FEATURE - ANGELS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR

Among the more than 27,000 U.S. military personnel held as POWs in the Pacific were 77 U.S. military nurses. The women, members of the Army Nurse and Navy Nurse Corps, would come to be known as the "Angels of Bataan and Corregidor." Taken prisoner in the Philippines, the nurses were separated from their male counterparts in service and held with POWs in the Santo Tomas and Los Banos Internment Camps. In those critically undersupplied camps, they were able to provide vital professional care to all of the Allied POWs held there. Miraculously, the nurses all survived the long imprisonment from May 1942 to February 1945.

Santo Tomas became a POW city of roughly 6,000 people. The nurses helped to establish Santa Catalina Hospital on the grounds of the camp. They helped to stem epidemics in the overcrowded camp, organizing a public health campaign in the most unsanitary conditions. The nurses treated patients with minimal supplies in spartan conditions for accidents, disease, and malnutrition. The weight loss due to starvation in the camps averaged around 32 percent of an individual's body weight. The American nurse POWs were not just waiting to be liberated, they were fighting to survive and to ensure the survival of others. All 77 survived until liberation by U.S. forces. The Army nurses were liberated from Santo Tomas in early February and the Navy Nurses, who had been moved to Los Banos Internment Camp, were liberated three weeks later.

The Army Nurse Corps leadership is largely credited with their group's survival. Chief Nurse CPT Maude C. Davison was 57 years old at capture with decades of service experience, including during World War I. Second in command was the 47-year-old LT Josie Nesbit. Under Davison and Nesbit's command, the nurses maintained a regular schedule of nursing duty while prisoners of war. They had routine daily four-hour shifts, giving them purpose and a reason to survive. In 2001, Maude Davison was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK: MAY 6 – 12, 2025

250TH U.S. ARMY EVENTS

- May 16 - 18 JBMDL "Power in the Pines" Open House & Air Show
- May 29 America at 250: Toward an Inclusive Commemoration
- May 30 "Revolutionary War 250: The Early Years" 2025 NMUSA Symposium
- June 4 The Army 250th Special American Revolution Lecture by Rick Atkinson
- June 5 Call to Arms: The Soldier and the Revolutionary War
- June 6 FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 1/9)
- June 7 FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 2/9)
- AVCoE Army Birthday Week Festivities (Day 1/8)
- NMUSA Rev War Exhibit Opens
- Redstone Arsenal 250th Army Birthday Celebration
- June 8 FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 3/9)
- AVCoE Army Birthday Week Festivities (Day 2/8)
- Aberdeen Proving Ground Army 250th Birthday Concert in the Park

Learn more about U.S. Army 250th events at: www.army.mil/1775/index.html#todaysarmy



ABOUT NATIONAL NURSES WEEK



May 12, 1820 – Aug 13, 1910

This celebratory week is observed from May 6 to 12. The 12th is significant as it marks Florence Nightingale's birthday. An English social reformer, Nightingale was considered the founder of modern nursing. She served as a manager and trainer of battlefield nurses during the Crimean War. Due to her knowledge and skill, she drastically reduced infections and deaths. Nightingale essentially turned nursing into a profession.



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