



# ARMY MEDICINE'S LEGACY OF CARE

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

YESTERDAY, TODAY, ALWAYS - SAVING LIVES SINCE 1775!



JULY 14 – JULY 20, 2025

1 6 DAYS  
JUL 11 - JUL 27



**July 15, 1918**

Jane I. Rignel, Nurse Corps, becomes one of three to earn the Citation Star during WWI. The Citation Star later became the Silver Star, the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces.

## FEATURE



**July 17, 1776**

The Continental Congress authorizes the employment of Hospital Stewards, who are recognized as the forerunners of the U.S. Army Medical Department Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Corps.



**July 19, 1798**

LTC James Craik is appointed as the Physician General of the U.S. Army by George Washington. Craik served until June 15, 1800.

## WEEK IN REVIEW

**July 14, 1960**

The last contingent of American Army medical support to Chile departs. The 7th Field Hospital and the 15th Field Hospital along with two air ambulance units provided support after a devastating earthquake and tsunami.

**July 16, 1976**

The 8th Medical Brigade is activated at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York. For a considerable period following its activation, the 8th Medical Brigade was the largest of all U.S. Army medical brigades, encompassing both active and reserve units.

**July 18, 1917**

It was on this date, during WWI, that the first of two medical officers, serving as sanitary inspectors, reported for duty at the Surgeon General's Office. Their initial task involved the creation of inspection questionnaire forms and the commencement of inspections of large cantonment sites.

**July 20, 1944**

Rehabilitation Center No. 3 begins receiving patients in England. Physical training instructors, as well as military and physical training officers, were assigned to augment the regular staff. The center had a 3,000 bed capacity.

## 250<sup>TH</sup> U.S. ARMY MEDICINE EVENTS

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| July 25 | Afternoon MEDCOM Cake Cutting<br>JBSA Museum Tour<br><br>Evening Reception/Celebration/<br>Cake Cutting - JBSA Resident<br>Center<br><br>National Museum of Health and<br>Medicine Display at DHHQ Salon A |
| July 26 | Esprit De Corps PT - MEDCOM<br>and MRC-W   |
| July 28 | DHHQ Cake Cutting  |
| July 30 | Twilight Tattoo (Fort Myer)  |
| July 31 | Night at the Museum  |

(Events are subject to change)

## FEATURE - HOSPITAL STEWARDS

During the Revolutionary War, Hospital Stewards were Soldiers detailed from the line to assist surgeons and work in hospitals, serving as the predecessors of today's Army Medical Department NCO Corps. While initially lacking official rank, they became vital members of the medical staff as the war progressed. By 1777, one Steward was authorized for every hundred sick or wounded, and by 1799, one was assigned to each military hospital. Their pay was set at one dollar per day plus two rations, and their roles rapidly expanded beyond basic assistance.

These essential personnel assisted surgeons with minor surgical procedures, dispensed medications, and supervised attendants and civilian workers in the hospitals. They were also responsible for procuring vegetables, meat, and bread locally when the regular supply system was disrupted. In later wars, many stewards assumed more advanced responsibilities, underscoring the evolving nature of their role and the growing reliance on their expertise.



## SILVER STAR

The Silver Star is the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces. It is awarded for gallantry in action:

- While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Silver Star must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the meet Medal of Honor or a Service Cross (Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross).



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JUL 11, 2025