

Evangeline G. Bovard

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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
LETTERMAN ARMY HOSPITAL  
San Francisco, California

RELEASE JANUARY 14

The Evangeline G. Bovard Award for achievement of high professional skill in the field of nursing will be presented to the outstanding nurse for 1957 at Letterman Army Hospital, Capt. Lenora B. Wierick, a Californian, by Col. Robert Skelton, USA, Retired, founder of the award, at a special command ceremony in the Letterman Theater on January 14.

The Bovard Award, which will eventually be worth \$1200 to the recipients, was established in April, 1957 by Colonel Skelton in memory of his late wife, Evangeline G. Bovard, a former Army nurse with an outstanding record of service before and during WWI. The award is the first of its kind, honoring an Army nurse for professional achievement, to be bestowed.

Colonel Skelton set aside \$25,000 last April to perpetuate the memory of his wife who passed away at Letterman Army Hospital in December, 1955. The interest is to be presented to the nurse (or nurses) demonstrating the highest degree of professional competence in maintaining the superior standards of the Army Nurse Corps.

This year's recipient of the award, Capt. Lenora B. Wierick, was nominated along with others by a committee of Letterman nurses. The final selection was made by a committee including the Commanding General, the Chief Nurse and the Executive Officer of Letterman.

Captain Wierick was commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps during WWII. She served with a front line field hospital in Germany.

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During the Korean Conflict, Captain Wierick received the Bronze Star for tireless devotion to duty while serving in the forward areas with a Mobile Surgical Hospital.

Since her assignment at Letterman in 1954, Captain Wierick has demonstrated her nursing skills in the care of paraplegic and acutely ill patients, aiding immeasurably in their rapid recovery.

She has initiated routines and procedures which have been adopted throughout the hospital which accomplish a higher degree of care for the seriously ill patient. Her instruction of hospital personnel in the use of medical aids has aided in the continuation of high standards of care at Letterman.

For the past three months Captain Wierick has been attending the University of San Francisco under the Army's Final Semester Plan, and will receive her B.S. degree in nursing in June.

### THE EVANGELINE G. BOVARD AWARD

The Evangeline G. Bovard Award was set up in April 1957 by Colonel Robert Skelton, USA, retired, in memory of his wife Evangeline Bovard Skelton, through the establishment of an indowment trust fund of assets totaling approximately \$25,000.

Annual earnings from this fund will be awarded to nurses of Letterman Army Hospital demonstrating the highest degree of professional competence and maintaining the superior standards of the Army Nurse Corps.

This award is the first of its kind ever to be bestowed upon an Army Nurse for professional achievement.

Evangeline Gertrude Bovard was a member of the Army Nurse Corps from January 1912 until February 1916, and from July 1916 until August 1917. During her first tour of duty she served a brief time in The Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D. C., then transferred to Letterman Army Hospital where she served several months until ordered to duty in the Philippine Islands.

She married Colonel Skelton, who now is a San Francisco resident, in 1917.

Mrs. Skelton was born in 1883 in Trivoli, Illinois, and died Dec 29, 1955, at Letterman Army Hospital. She is buried in the Golden Gate Cemetery, Presidio of San Francisco.

She is survived by a sister, Florence Young of Mamont, Pa., and two brothers, Floyd Bovard of Coplay, Ohio, and Paul Bovard of Mansfield, Ohio. She was a member of the D.A.R., Washington, D. C. Chapter.

*M. L. L.*

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Recipients of the award are selected by the Commanding General, the Executive Officer and the Chief Nurse of Letterman Army Hospital in accordance with the wishes of Colonel Skelton.

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON CAPT. LENORA B. WEIRICK

Capt. Lenora B. Weirick was selected to be the first recipient of the Evangeline G. Bovard Award because of her outstanding care of acutely ill patients, her invaluable contributions to the improved care of paraplegics and her ability to instruct and train corpsmen that they may become highly proficient in the care of neuro-surgery and paraplegic patients.

During her tenure of duty at Letterman Army Hospital from her assignment there in July 1954 until she began her final semester at the University of San Francisco last September, she was assigned as a general duty nurse on the neuro-surgical and the eye, ear, nose and throat wards.

### SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

She continually showed outstanding abilities in general nursing care and her keen observation and skillful nursing care of acutely ill patients, both neuro-surgical and others, aided immeasurably to their more rapid recovery. Largely through her efforts and skill, the post-injury and post-operative complications common to neuro-surgical patients were reduced to a minimum. Her ability to instruct corpsmen in the difficult nursing problems of these patients greatly added to the high standards of special care required.

She not only spent much off-duty time in preparing the Foster and Stryker frames (special bed frames used for neuro-surgical and other

patients with specific problems preventing use of limbs, but she also held classes to instruct personnel in the proper use of Foster frames, emphasizing safety precautions and the proper manner of orienting patients to allay their fears.

In addition, Captain Weirick compiled the procedure book for the care of neuro-surgical patients which has become an invaluable guide and reference book for those working on the neuro-surgical ward, and she initiated a routine for suctioning patients with tracheotomies which is less traumatic to the tissues and less irritating to the patients.

#### BACKGROUND

Although now a Californian, the step daughter of Mrs. Paul A. Pier of 915 Sunset Drive in San Carlos, Captain Weirick is a native of Iowa. She is a graduate of the St. Joseph Academy and the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing of Des Moines. She was on the staff at Mercy before entering the Army Nurse Corps in March 1944.

Her first Army assignment was at Schick General Hospital, Clinton, Iowa, where she began her many years of caring for neuro-surgical patients.

She joined the 66th Field Hospital in November 1944, went with it to Scotland, then spent several months with the 66th on the front lines in Germany. The captain left France in August 1945 for duty at Mayo General Hospital, Galesburg, Illinois. In September 1946 she began transport duty on the Admiral Rodman out of Brooklyn Army Base to Bremerhaven, Germany.

Captain Weirick left Army service in June 1947 to join the staff of the VA Hospital at Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, New York.

A year later she reentered the ANC to spend three months on duty at the Army-Navy General Hospital at Hot Springs before joining the 161st Station Hospital at Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. In March 1951 she joined the 8055th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) in Korea.

BRONZE STAR

It was while with the 8055th MASH that Captain Weirick received the Bronze Star, the citation for which reads as follows: "... Captain Weirick, a member of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, 8055th Army Unit, is cited for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in Korea during the period 6 April 1951 to 22 April 1952.

Serving as a General Nurse, and responsible for providing the best possible care for the numerous patients entrusted to her, Captain Weirick consistently carried out her multifarious duties in an exemplary manner. Her outstanding technical skill, compassionate regard for the welfare of her charges, and tireless devotion to duty earned her the deep respect and admiration of all those with whom she worked and contributed immeasurably to the success achieved by her hospital in accomplishing its life-saving mission. The meritorious service rendered by Captain Weirick throughout this period ma-

terially furthered the cause of the United Nations in K<sub>o</sub>rea and reflects great credit on herself and the military service."

She left K<sub>o</sub>rea in April 1952 to report for duty at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where she stayed until assigned to Letterman.

While at Fort Campbell, Captain Weirick began her night school courses, which she continued at the University of San Francisco. Last September she began as a full-time student at USF on the Army's Final Semester Plan to obtain her degree, a B.S. in Nursing.

She will finish her courses at S.F. this month, then report to Germany for duty there.

