

# KATHERINE ROSE JUMP NURSE EXTRAORDINAIRE

WW II, KOREAN, VIETNAM WARS

WHEN?  
1915-1997

WHERE? Starts in  
Wilkes-Barre Pa



EVENT  
Nurse through 3 wars

VOCABULARY  
meritorious

When Katherine Rose Jump attended Coughlin High school, she had no idea that as a nurse she would be friends with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, care for another president and other war time military leaders like General Douglas MacArthur (O'Boyle). Born in 1915 in Wilkes-Barre to Rose Montone and John Jump, she attended local schools. It was while in high school working at a drug store that she was inspired to become a nurse (O'Boyle). After



Homeopathic School of Nursing

graduation in 1933 as the Great Depression was gaining strength, she went on to the Wyoming Valley Homeopathic Hospital School of Nursing on Dana Street in Wilkes-Barre.

That was followed by schooling in Philadelphia at the Jewish Hospital where she specialized in operating room techniques. Once she joined the military, she attended and graduated from the Army Management School in Fort Belvoir, Va. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps in May 1941, she arrived in Pearl Harbor at the North Sector General Hospital 10 days after the Japanese attack (Times Leader). She served through next three years of the war.

She returned to Pennsylvania after the Japanese surrender where she was assigned to the Valley Forge General Hospital in Phoenixville. It was there she rose in rank to captain. When the Korean War broke out, she served as the chief nurse of the 4th Field Hospital and also participated in the invasion of Inchon establishing a hospital there. She also served as operating room nurse at Tokyo General Hospital. Later, at the 20<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital in Germany, she received a certificate of outstanding service to the U.S. Army "for exceptional professional knowledge, exemplary efficiency and fidelity" (Times Leader). That was followed by her work in the Biomedical Project at Nevada Proving Ground in 1957 evaluating the effects of an atomic blast (Times Leader).



She continued to move up in rank serving as the operating room supervisor at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, D.C. in 1960. She was given a citation from Brig. General Robert M. Skinner as she transitioned. He wrote: "*Besides being exceptionally well qualified professionally, she consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership and administrative ability in her most important assignment. She is a perfectionist who kept abreast of the latest techniques and who was always seeking ways to improve an*

*already superior service*” according to the Wilkes-Barre Record of October 21, 1960 (Times Leader Beyond Duty).

As chief of operation room supervisor, she was part of the team that took care of General Douglas MacArthur and later, President Lyndon B. Johnson. It was at this duty station that then President Johnson told her regarding the soldiers of Vietnam, “take good care of my boys.” Now a full colonel—one of only five women in the Army Nurse Corps to reach that rank--she was moved to chief of nursing service. According to her family, she was offered a promotion to brigadier general--a chance to become the first woman general in any of the armed services --



but declined it preferring to retire. She left the service as Colonel and Chief of Nursing of the hospital in 1968. At the time, she was in charge of 1600 nurses. She was also awarded the Legion of Merit for her service. This award is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performing outstanding services.

According to the Times Leader article, *Beyond Duty*, she was also the “first woman to be elected as president of a class at the U.S. Army Management School at Fort Belvoir, Va. Her 45 male classmates attended the three-week course for the Army’s promising administrators” (Times Leader Beyond Duty).

During her military service and after retirement, she was a member of various civic and religious organizations such as the Association of Operating Room Nurses of the Greater Washington Area, Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, Disable Veterans and the Retired Officers Association of Tobyhanna Depot. She was a member of St. Mary Immaculate Conception church, Wilkes-Barre, and eucharistic minister and past president of the Altar and Rosary Society (Times Leader). She also served on the board of directors for Meals on Wheels and regular deliverer and member of the Ladies of Charity. In addition, she was a member of the board of directors of the CYC, Wilkes-Barre, and St. Michael’s School for boys as well as a member of the Deborah Foundation of New Jersey. Red Cross blood drives also kept her active.

She helped to shape the people and space around her one patient at a time. She died in 1997 at age 82 and is buried at Arlington Cemetery near war hero Audie Murphy and early astronaut, John Glenn.

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

[Times Leader K.R. Jump](#)

[Times Leader Beyond Duty K.R. Jump](#) June 17, 2007

[Times Leader O'Boyle 2018](#) Jump