

EDITH AHLGREN BOLLINGER

Born in Hudson, Wis. 11 Apr. 1920, graduated from Bethesda Hosp. School of Nursing in 1941. She entered the A.N.C. Feb. 1942 and was stationed at Chanute Field, Ill. Assigned to the 801st MAES at Bowman Field, Ky. Dec. 1942, serving in the South Pacific Theater 16 mos. where they evacuated wounded from island airfields to Base Hosps. She was promoted to 1st Lt. and awarded the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. Married Capt. Ralph Bollinger, Air Force Pilot, in New Caledonia. 40 yrs. later, their five children, Randy, Barbara, Jack, Jean and Bill surprised them with an anniversary trip to the South Pacific. Ralph flew for an international airline; later working for an oil co., so many places were "home." She earned a Master's Degree in Nursing, working in Public Health and various hospitals, however her primary interests have been family, home and volunteer work.



Edith Ahlgren Bollinger



Dear Melinda,
These 2 pictures are of mom and dad in the South Pacific during the war. Mom's best friend till she died a few years ago was maid of honor in the picture below: Ethel Kovack, "Scotty". She went on to become head of the Army Nurse Corps at the Pentagon until she retired in her 50's and became a stock broker (AMAZING woman). Mom raised 5 children (all college graduates), earned a BA degree in English and later went on to earn her Master's in Nursing from Texas Women's University when she was in her late 50's!



1943-12-21 Bollinger Edith and Ralph
WEDDING in New Caledonia. Dad's Best Man
in this picture, married and had a son who
wrote
the book, Dances with Wolves that became a
Kevin Costner film. They met up again at a
Guadalcanal reunion where dad bought us all
signed books.

Subj: **Edith Ahlgren Bollinger - 801st WWIFNA**
Date: 12/19/2008 3:44:56 PM Central Standard Time
From: bbollinger1@bellsouth.net
To: dorothyce1920@aol.com



Hi this is my mom Edith at her assisted living Christmas party last night in Atlanta. She was a flight nurse in Guadalacanal where she met and married my dad, pilot Ralph Bollinger. She's doing great and the staff says she's still helping out with the other residents like nurse she is. Once a nurse, always a nurse!

We were sorry to hear about your hip injury. Hope 2009 is filled with happiness. Thanks for the newsletter! Barbara Bollinger RN, daughter.

PS Both my sister Jean and I are now RN's and one of my brothers, Randy is a doctor/surgeon. He just retired as head of Transplant Surgery at Duke in NC. Soooo mom's medical influence touched us all!



Sweet mom at the Atlanta Botanical Garden 3/38/2011



Edith Delores Ahlgren Bollinger



Edith Delores Ahlgren Bollinger

Atlanta, GA

Edith Delores Ahlgren Bollinger of Atlanta, GA, died on Saturday, March 10, 2012 after a brief illness. The former Hattiesburg resident native was 91 when she passed peacefully from this world.

She was the eldest daughter and only living child of the late Carl and Marion Ahlgren of Hudson, WI. She was preceded in death by her brother, Carl "Bub" Ahlgren and sister, Ethel "Sis" Ahlgren Hanley. In 1938 she graduated with honors from Hudson High School where she was a cheerleader, member of the debate team, and very active: hiking, canoeing, ice skating and swimming the St. Croix

River. She graduated salutatorian from Bethesda Hospital Nursing School in St Paul, MN as an RN and enlisted in the Army Air Corps shortly after Pearl Harbor. She served her country in the South Pacific as a flight nurse in the 801st, was in the first group of nurses on Guadalcanal and helped to set up one of the first air-evac hospitals in New Caledonia and in the New Hebrides. While in the South Pacific, she met and married her husband, Ralph Perry Bollinger of Norman, OK who was a pilot flying with the 13th Air Depot.

After the war, Ralph flew for Trans World Airlines (TWA), and later became a petroleum landman. Edith was an extraordinary homemaker and mother to their much-loved family of 5 children, making a wonderful and beautiful home filled with love each of the 28 times the family moved (even to Cairo, Egypt). She led by example in the communities she joined: she was a Cub Scout den mother for two sons, Sunday School teacher, first aid instructor and worked as a RN in Shreveport, LA, New Orleans, Conroe, TX, and Houston. In 1965 she returned to school part-time, and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from St. Mary's Dominican College, Houston, TX. She later earned her Masters Degree in Nursing from Texas Women's University. Along the way, she wrote poetry, painted watercolors and devotedly kept the extended family in touch through correspondence, calls and visits.

She was a former member of Parkway United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg, MS. and attended Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta, GA.

Survivors include two sons: Ralph Randal Bollinger, MD and his wife Monika of Durham, NC, William Guest Bollinger and his wife Judy of Singapore; two daughters: Barbara Ann Bollinger, of Atlanta, GA, and Elizabeth Jean Bollinger, of Durham, NC. One son, John Cary Bollinger predeceased her. She cherished her role as grandmother to seven grandchildren: Christie Bollinger Pappas and her husband Keith, Mark Bollinger, Erik Krippner and his wife Faye, Jesse Bollinger and his wife Aree, Kevyn Weiner, Douglas and James Bollinger. She was beloved "G.G." to four great-grandchildren: Joseph Pappas, Luke Pappas, Daniel Pappas, Alex Bollinger, and additionally, loving "Aunt Edith" and "Edith" to numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She will be especially remembered for instilling in her children a vision and a passion for "a big world" filled with curiosity, travel, education, new beginnings and new horizons. She embraced a deep-seated belief in family, country and God and "His beautiful world". We will forever remember her singing: "This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears, all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres."

Internment was in Norman, Oklahoma.

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