

### Betty Pearce Strickland

This non-commissioned Officers Association World War II Legacy Award is presented to **Betty Pearce Strickland**. Betty served in the United States Army Nurse Corps during the World War II era and attained the rank of First Lieutenant. *Promoted 10 Oct 1945.*

Lt. Strickland was on active duty from *15 Jan, 1944 to 1946.*  
 Lt. Strickland graduated from Missouri Methodist Hospital in St Joseph in 1943. She was 21 and there was a war going on. She felt an obligation to help her fellow man. This sense of duty would lead Lt. Strickland to the most rewarding experience of her life. She joined the United States Army Air Corps in \_\_\_\_\_. After basic training in San Antonio, she was stationed in a hospital at Blackland Army Air Field in Waco, Texas where she met her future husband, Tommy. But she wanted to go to Flight School and made a successful bid to attend the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field in San Antonio, Texas. Lt. Strickland flew for 2 years transporting wounded soldiers from the battlefields of the European theater to the East Coast, traveling to the West Coast to pick up wounded soldiers from the Pacific Theater and taking them to specialized military hospitals in continental United States. This was the very beginning of the air evacuation, as it is known today.

After the war in 1945, She began work as an industrial nurse and then in school nursing. In 1959 she worked for the South Park Independent School District in Beaumont Texas for 17 years as school nurse and later as supervisor of health services. Lt. Strickland, in civilian life has been a pioneer in school nursing. To name a few of her accomplishments:

Her district was the first to have computerized immunization records in 1962  
 Led first workshops on Dyslexia for Texas school nurses  
 President of Texas State Teachers Association School Health Section and Texas State School Nurses Association in 1970  
 In 1971, Convinced Governor of Texas to declare School Nurses Day in Texas.  
 Influential as expert in developing a school nurse pay scale for the Gimer-Aiken funding bill.  
 She is not a quitter, at the age of 76 she was still teaching CPR classes

*Recd by Lt. Cmdr. Ron Zurawski, USN, Ret.  
 Presented by Col. Ben Mittman, USAF, Ret  
 20 May 2009, Valley Center, CA.*