



Time to honor and formally
Recognize Cadet Nurses

The United States Cadet Nurse Corps

1943 – 1945

They are part of the "Greatest Generation" yet remain virtually unknown to most Americans. They are the heroes that nobody knows about. They were our nation's first integrated Uniformed U.S. Service Corps, which filled an urgent need for nurses during WWII. The regular nurses were called to military service; others were attracted to defense industry jobs that paid much more money. This left the understaffed civilian hospital in the U.S. on the verge of collapse.

They should be honored for their efforts. Nine (9) bills were introduced to Congress and nine times nothing was done. They kept putting the matter in the hands of Committees, accomplishing nothing. What do they want? Not money or benefits, just recognition. The surviving women are in their eighties now. Most of the Cadets have passed away, forgotten. They pledged their lives to their country for the duration of WWII. They marched to the drumming of heartbeats: their own, and those entrusted to their care. No bugler sounded reveille, yet they rose at sunrise, donned their uniforms and reported to their battle stations: hospitals in every corner of America. Their enemies: infantile paralysis, Tuberculosis, infectious diseases and injuries. Their weapons: skills, pills and stamina.

Without them, our nation's healthcare system would have collapsed, resulting in a demoralized and ailing population. Without them, there would have been a continued shortage of nurses for our armed

services; more fatalities; perhaps a longer war. They were the 180,000 young women of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps: women of all races and ethnicities. They helped win World War II. Yet, no flags adorn their graves. These veterans of the Corp remain unacknowledged by our Government and unknown by most Americans today.

The only memorial honoring the Cadet Nurse Corps is located in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, New York, and was dedicated November 5th, 2017. Nothing fancy. In fact it looks like a large grave stone. There are two or more schools of nursing that have something on their campuses. It is time to honor them and thank them for their service to our country. Our memorial can set an example for others to follow.

My sculptor, David Oswald, will do a beautiful statue for the price of his materials. If each nurse and student nurses in the La Crosse area would donate just \$10.00, we could build a beautiful and meaningful memorial that will last at least 100 years.

Before I built the first two memorials, I traveled to different towns and cities to get ideas. I did not see even one female statue. How sad. What a disappointment it must be for little girls visiting the memorials.

It is time for a change and I would like La Crosse to be the "Trend Setter".

There are many strong and intelligent woman leaders in our area with great influence. I am going to need their support to make this project a reality.

Make out your check to Cadet Nurse Memorial and mail it to Louie Ferris, 1519 George St., La Crosse Wi., 54603.

Or send to River Bank, 1232 Rose St., La Crosse, 54603 for deposit in account : Cadet Nurse Memorial