

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NSDAR Hospital Corps

*Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the DAR Hospital Corps created during the 1898 Spanish American War; DAR is honoring unsung nurses everywhere. This is our chance to say **Thank You** to all those that are in the profession currently and retired.*

Of the 1,563 nurses recruited for the new DAR Nurse Corp during the 1898 Spanish American War, most served in hospitals in the United States. Only 76 were sent to Cuba, 30 to the Philippines, nine to Puerto Rico, six to Honolulu, and eight served aboard the hospital ship USS *Relief*. It was the first time in American history where female nurses were fully accepted in military hospitals.

Although no nurses were killed in combat, 140 died of typhoid and 13 from other diseases. Since nearly all the nurses died in the United States, most were sent home to their families for burial. A handful died overseas, and were buried there. On July 8, 1898, Congress enacted legislation authorizing the repatriation of American dead, and appropriating funds for this purpose. Many of the dead were buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

The first Spanish–American War nurse to be buried at Arlington was Anna H. Campos, who died in Cuba on September 2, 1899. By February 1901, the military had repatriated bodies of nurses who had died overseas and buried them at Arlington in Section 21, which became the ‘nurses’ section. In late 1906, the Quartermaster General, gave permission for any Army nurse who wished to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with military honors.

Iowa had eleven nurses serve in the Corp. Elinor B. Nicholson and Della Weeks were from Des Moines and served in U.S. hospitals.

**Source:** *Highlights in the History of the Army Nurse Corps*; Editors: Carolyn M. Feller, Lieutenant Colonel, AN, USAR and Debora r. Cox, Major, AN. U.S. Army Center of Military History, Washington, DC 2001



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