125th Anniversary
of the
NSDAR Hospital Corps

*Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the DAR Hospital Corps created during the !898 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.*

Anita Newcomb was born in Washington, D.C., and married geologist and anthropologist W.J. McGee in 1888.

McGee attended a private school in DC, graduating in 1882, and received her medical degree from Columbian College (present-day George Washington University) in 1892. One of few women practicing in Washington, D.C., from 1892 to 1896, she also had connections with the military through her father, who held the rank of rear admiral.

As founder and Director of the Daughters of the American Revolution Hospital Corps (DAR), she trained volunteer nurses for army and navy service after the outbreak of the Spanish–American War.

McGee's organizing ability led to her appointment as the only woman Acting Assistant Surgeon in the United States Army on August 29, 1898, and she was placed in charge of the Army's nurses under the Army Surgeon General's Department.[4] After this brief war ended, McGee pursued the establishment of a permanent nursing corps, which became a reality with the Army Nurse Corps, after passage of the Army Reorganization Act legislation, which she helped draft.

McGee died on October 5, 1940, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery next to her father with full military honors. Dr. McGee was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Spanish War Veterans. She was the founder of the Society of Spanish–American War Nurses.

Dr. McGee received the Spanish War Service Medal.

Provided by the
Iowa Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Commemorative Events 2022-2024