

The World

Bette Jane (Knox) Hanen



25 MINUTES AGO

Oct. 8, 1920 - March 4, 2013

At her request, no services will be held for Bette Jane (Knox) Hanen, 92, of Coos Bay, a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who died surrounded by her family March 4, 2013, in Coos Bay.

Bette was born Oct. 8, 1920, in King City, Calif., to Charles J. and Esther Nelson Knox. When Bette was 3 months old, the family relocated to Coos Bay, where, in 1928, Mr. Knox was killed in an accident at the Coos Bay Lumber Company. Bette and her sister, Dorothy, were then raised by their mother. Bette graduated from Marshfield High School in 1938, and went to Portland with her good friend, Eleanor "Biff" Knutson, to attend Emanuel School of Nursing. She graduated from Emanuel in 1942.

On a date arranged by mutual friends, Bette met Richard "Dick" Hanen at a party in Lakeside, and the two "danced the night away and fell in love," as they told family over the years. After Dick went into the U.S. Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Bette decided to enlist.

"I had a restlessness, a little free spirit in my soul," she would say about enlisting in the U.S. Army as a flight nurse. In April 1944, 1st Lt. Bette Hanen was among a contingent of soldiers and medical personnel in the 804th Medical Air Evacuation Squadron of the 54th Troop Carrier Wing that landed in Leyte, the Philippines. She worked there and on Okinawa, evacuating wounded soldiers in C-47 air ambulances. As World War II was winding down, Bette was sent to Japan to evacuate U.S. prisoners of war. For her service, Bette would be awarded the Patriot Medallion of Honor and Remembrance in 2010.

Bette returned to Coos Bay in December 1945. Dick got home from his service a few months later and the two were married in June 1946. Bette continued to work as a nurse, with Drs. Simpkin and Peacock and for Dr. John Keizer, and she helped Dick run the family business, Coos Bay Stationery. Dick and Bette were partners in that business, as they were in everything they did for the rest of their lives. When they retired, they spent winters in the desert, where the two played golf, which was an important part of their lives. In the summer and fall, they lived in their favorite place on earth, Agness, where

they passed the days fly fishing on the Rogue River, gardening and often simply sitting on the point overlooking the river with each other. They took great joy in their life and were dedicated to each other.

Bette is survived by her husband, Richard "Dick" Hanen of Coos Bay; daughters, Becky and John Marshall of Tumalo, Barbara and Dan Gerrone of Happy Valley, and Caddy and Jeff McKeown of Coos Bay; grandchildren, Sarah and Scott Lacey of Rochester, Minn., Meg and Craig Smith of Clovis, Calif., Maria Gerrone of Portland, Nick and Jessica Gerrone of Seattle, Wash., and Bradford McKeown and Molly McKeown, both of Portland; great-grandsons, Campbell Smith and Grant Smith of Clovis, and Charles Lacey and Joseph Lacey of Rochester; sister, Dorothy Kingsley of Coos Bay; and her dear high school friend, Patty Wylie of North Bend.

Cremation rites were held at Ocean View Memory Gardens Crematory with inurnment at Sunset Memorial Park Mausoleum Columbarium in Coos Bay.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Bette Knox-Hanen Nursing Scholarship at Marshfield High School, c/o Candace McGowne, P.O. Box 1541, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

Arrangements are under the direction of Coos Bay Chapel, 541-267-3131.

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WWII FNA

NEWSLETTER
 WORLD WAR II FLIGHT NURSE ASSOCIATION

Response Sheet for May 13, 2011

Today's date 6/9/11

Your Squad # 820th

First, middle, maiden, last name Bettie Jane Knox HANEN

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED RECENTLY yes no

IF YES.. Please fill in BELOW:

New address here: Coo's Bay, OR. 97420

Telephone number changed yes **NO** New telephone number _____

**IF YOU AN INTERESTED FAMILY MEMBER,
 FILL IN THE ABOVE WITH YOUR ADDRESS.
 FOR FUTURE MAILINGS**

WRITE DOWN YOUR COMMENTS, I WANT TO HEAR FROM ALL OF YOU.

Hello - Yes I'm alive and kicking - Dick and
 are 90th just celebrated our 65th Anniv. all family
 present - Children, Spouses, Grandchildren & Spouses
 and 4 Great Grandson - pretty busy. We still go to The
 Rivera and enjoy fair health.

My memorabilia is limited - Wing's, Bowman's, Lela's Book
 Flight Boots - Still wear them - Cape - Partial Uniforms
 Original Purse issue - a few pictures and many
 memories - Thank you for all you have done and
 are doing - Oh to be young again - I'd do it
 all over again

Sincerely Bettie Hanen

MAIL TO:

**WWII FNA
 Dorothy Errair
 4020 Rich Drive
 Waterford, MI 48329**

Anyone else
 left from the
 820th ?