

SANTA ROSA MORTUARY

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TO: PRESS DEMOCRAT
FROM: Michael McElroy

Please print this notice with picture on Sunday, March 13th. Thank you!

STARRETT, CECILIA – Died in Lyle, WA on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 after a long battle with emphysema and lung cancer. Dearly beloved wife of the late Lee Starrett; loved mother of Paula Phillips, Donna Enz and Carla Hale; grandmother of Aaron Enz, Matt and Chris Phillips and the late Jason Enz. Born 1913 in Perham, MN, she left the family farm during the depression to attend nurse's training at Mayo Clinic. During this time, she became fascinated with flying and took flying lessons from Max Conrad, the well-known aviation pioneer. She helped him hold air shows around the area. She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps a year after WWII started and trained as an air evacuation nurse. She evacuated the injured from Normandy Beach three days after D-Day and continued the same activity in Northern France, Ardennes, the Rhineland and various other places in Central Europe. She logged more air miles than any other flight nurse during her 2-year tour and received many decorations for her efforts. After leaving the service, she met her husband, Lee, at the Sonoma Mission Inn. They married a year later and ran the Massage Department at the Boyes Hot Springs Bath House for 30 years. She also worked at the Sonoma State Hospital for 10 years heading up the immunization program. She finished her nursing career with the Visiting Nurses of Sonoma County and private practice, which included caring for the late Richard Raoul Emparan, the grandson of General Vallejo. Cecilia loved dogs and enjoyed gardening, canning, cooking, working the daily crossword puzzle in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat and playing YAHTZEE with her grandsons. She was a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Yellow roses were her favorite flowers.

Friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service on Monday, March 14, 2005 at 1:00 PM at SANTA ROSA MEMORIAL PARK AND MORTUARY, 1900 Franklin Ave., Santa Rosa (707)542-3154

Flew Across The Channel 200 Times In Invasion

Lt. Cecelia Paul, ANC, who has been here visiting relatives has a record of 200 flights across the English channel while serving with an air evacuation unit based in England. Evacuating the wounded from battle units after the crossing of the Rhine she flew nearly to Berlin and as far east as the Czech border. The evacuation service works close to the battle line taking out the more serious cases for hospitalization in England. Flights are ordinarily at about 8,000 feet although storm condition sometime force higher altitudes.

The C-47 transports which are generally used in the service carry but one nurse. Outbound for the battle front they carry ammunition, gasoline and other supplies and often there is no place for the nurse except on top of the load.

Flying home on leave this was Lt. Paul's fourth air crossing of the Atlantic. Lt. Paul left Tuesday for Minneapolis where she will spend several days before flying back to England. Her sister Martha, accompanied her to the cities.

Lt. Paul brought with her a large number of pictures which she took in England and on the continent. Their diet there lacked many of the things which are commonplace here. What pleased her on her visit was the ability to obtain all the fruit she wanted to eat.

I received my 21 light Nurses Training
at Randolph Field, San Antonio, Texas.

We were the biggest class ever to graduate
from there -

I have framed my graduation certificate, my
my first and second Lt's Bars, my 21 light
Nurses Wings, my patches and my ribbons and
my A TC - Army Transport Command medal
and saved them for my children - it is quite
a souvenir to have -

Melinda you do a wonderful ^{job} resharing all your
information: I don't think any of us could do
that - Keep well -

I have my Health Problems, but look
forward to each new day -

9-6-2011