

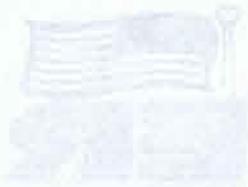


1st Lt. MARION E. JOHNSON
HARRELL
Flight Nurse

803rd Med Air Evac Sq

Myittha, Burma

Summer 1944



WOMEN



RESPONSE SHEET - PLEASE FILL IN AND RETURN

Please take the time to fill in this response sheet with the answers to the questions and if you have anything to add please use the back of this paper. Please return this form to:



Donna E. Ennis
1600 Tamiami Trail
Taverna, Florida 33338



This is the information we already have on file for you. If there is anything missing please check it off.

- ① - Ft Riley Kansas - Army 1942 Corp
- ② - Bowman Field - Basicette Trg.
- ③ - Flight Nurse Training - 802 RFSgt Lt.
- PLS to CBI theater - 1943-44
- Drew Field - Tampa - 1944-45
- Dover AFB - Del. 1945 - Discharged 401st 45
- I served 348 & 4 BMS -

Did you see your daughter, son, niece or nephew to have with you to you state?

If a location was listed in your nearby town, could you assist?

What could we do for you so you would be able to attend WWII Rite home history?

Could you give us another mailing address in case you cannot be contacted at the above address at a later date?

Would you like someone to contact you about recording "Your Story" for the Women's History in Washington DC?

803rd
CHECKED MAY 05 2008

OBIT FOR MARION ELIZABETH JOHNSON HARRELL

HARRELL, Marion Elizabeth (nee' Johnson) better known to her wide array of friends as "Jonnie," passed away quietly Feb 28th 2008. It was one of the very few things she did quietly during her 91 years. Born in the rough logging town of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, Jonnie's full life saw much challenge and much happiness. Graduating from High School in Devil's Lake, South Dakota, she went on to attend Bethesda Hospital School of Nursing in Saint Paul. She later earned a postgraduate degree in obstetrics from the prestigious Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Baltimore, Maryland. While putting those degrees to good use she was shocked, along with the entire nation, by the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. Not long after, the chance sighting of a notice on a Nurses' Quarters bulletin board announcing the formation of the first squadrons of flight nurses got her into the "fight". Joining other volunteer nurses, she became a member of the 803rd Air Evacuation Squadron and sailed out of San Francisco for parts unknown. Once at sea, the nurse learned their destination would be India and they would be supporting the tough fighting of Gen "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell's soldiers as they cut the Burma Road across the formidable Himalayan Mountains. Jonnie flew 50 combat hours transporting American wounded and enemy prisoners in C-47 aircraft. She more than earned her Air Medal. During this busy and dangerous time, Jonnie also found the opportunity for a bit of socializing and met the "love of her life" in (then) Major Bill Harrell, Commander of the nearby 80th Fighter Squadron, the "Burma Banshees." Bill and Jonnie truly had a "romance in the skies" and married soon after they returned stateside in April 1945. Jonnie left active duty, and she and Bill enjoyed a wonderful thirty-three year career in the US Air Force ending with their retirement in Montgomery in 1973. Jonnie wasted no time in making Montgomery "her place." Through The Retired Officers' Wives Club, The Retired Officer Association, Lady Kiwanians, Red Cross Volunteers, and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, later Messiah Lutheran Church, she made her presence and her spirit known throughout the community. She always had time to collect for the Cancer Society or to man the Information Booth at the Alabama State Fair or just to visit with friends or neighbors who were having challenges in their lives. She never tried cooking the "birds" Bill brought home from the country or frying the catfish he caught during the long Alabama summers. Along the way, she earned the respect and friendship of mayors, city councilmen, and pastors as well as folks she met at the Base Pharmacy, the Base Exchange, or the Farmer's Market. Jonnie was not only a dedicated and supportive wife, but the mother of three children. She managed eighteen moves and many homes. She survived typhoons in the Phillipines, tornadoes in Kansas City, and blizzards in Montana. She adjusted to life in a stucco mansion complete with gardener and a one level ranch house so small the dining room furniture barely left room for the diners. She planted countless gardens she never saw grow to fruition and supported school projects she never saw completed. She was a Room Mother, a Wives' Club President, a Well Baby Clinic technician, and a gracious hostess-making it all look easy as she went. She learned early that self-

sufficiency and independence are key to a successful life and instilled these traits in her children. She is survived by Cynthia S. Harrell, Esq. , of Montgomery, William S. Harrell, Col, USAF, Ret. and wife Mary D. Harrell, of Dayton, OH, and Elizabeth A. Harrell Grisoli, Maj Gen, USAF, Ret. and her husband William T. Grisoli, Maj Gen, USA, of Fort Belvoir, VA. She is also survived by grandsons William S. Harrell, Bryan C. Harrell, Mathew D. Harrell, and Kevin S. Harrell. She was predeceased by her husband of sixty-one years, William S. Harrell, Maj Gen, USAF, Ret. We will miss you, Mom. You were truly a "force of nature" throughout your life. You never thought "can't," and you never let us think it either. You shared that "ain't we got carnival" spirit of your grandmother until the day you died, and we have that to carry with us in your absence. You were, until the end, one "Great Gal. " Visitation will be at Leak-Memory Chapel on Monday, March 3, from 3:00 until 5:00 pm. A Celebration of Life Memorial will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church, 6670 Vaughn Road on Tuesday, March 4, at 10:00 am followed by a graveside service at Greenwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made in her name to Messiah Lutheran Church. Leak-Memory Chapel Directing

Funeral Home: **LEAK MEMORY**

Publication Date: **03/02/2008**

OBIT FOR MARION ELIZABETH JOHNSON HARRELL

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