

Former FD woman honored for service

Ret. 2nd Lt. Mary Evelyn Kearns Bjerke, daughter of the late Jim and Evelyn Kearns of Fort Dodge, was honored as a World War II nurse at the 20th national convention of The Society of Air Force Nurses in Colorado Springs, Colo., recently.



**Mary
Bjerke**

Eight nurses from across the nation were honored. A resume of their services was read, and each was presented with a gold medalion from the Non-Commissioned Officers Association for "Valor, Sacrifice and Fidelity — The Greatest Generation."

A style show of uniforms through the years followed, and Bjerke's uniform was modeled.

Bjerke, 89, comes from a military heritage: two uncles were in World War I; her brother, Tom, was a P-38 flyer killed in North Africa; two brothers, Jack and Robert, were in the Navy; and a brother-in-law, Ed Riley, was in the Army in England.

In her immediate family, daughter Nancy, a nurse, retired as a colonel in the United States Air Force after 24 years. She wrote the course "Basic Infection Control and Surveillance" and taught 125 officers.

Her son, Thomas, retired after 24 years as a Marine major, and her son, Larry, E-4, spent 13 months at "Operation Deep Freeze" at Antarctic, South Pole.

Both Mary Bjerke and Nancy Bjerke belong to the South Central Chapter of SAFN in San Antonio, Texas. Nancy is national treasurer. They both live in San Antonio.