



**Missouri State Society
Daughters of the American
Revolution**

PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Pauline Gorrell



Pauline Gorrell graduated from Canton (Missouri) High School in 1929. She taught for a year, then entered Kirksville State Teachers College. In 1932, she entered St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in Keokuk, Iowa, graduating in 1935.

From 1935 to 1943, she served at several hospitals in different capacities, including Nurse at St. Johns TB Sanitarium, Springfield, IL; Obstetrical Nurse at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hannibal, MO; and as a private Nurse in Keokuk, IA and Warsaw, IL.

In 1943, Pauline joined the Nurse Army Corps Reserve and was commissioned as 2nd Lt. at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. After training, she went to Camp Stoneman, CA, to await orders. She traveled by ship to Sidney, Australia, then by train to Brisbane, and arrived at the staging area, Camp Columbia, Brisbane, in time for Thanksgiving.

In December 1943, she was sent to Port Moresby, New Guinea Station Hospital 116, and from there, on to Milni Bay, New Guinea, where she was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned temporary duty at Biak and Owi. Lt. Gorrell was aboard ship headed to Luzon, the Philippines when the crew received word of President Roosevelt's death. In April 1945, Pauline reported to the 80th General Hospital, Quezon City Hospital, Manila. She still remembers her trip back to the USA aboard a hospital ship and hearing the song "Blue Skies" being played as they came into port at San Pedro, CA.

In January 1946, Pauline returned to duty at O'Riley General Hospital, Springfield, MO. After discharge from the Nursing Corps, Pauline worked as a nurse in hospitals at Hannibal, MO and Keokuk, IA. She worked at the VA Hospital in Louisville, KY from 1946 to 1955.

In 1955, she earned her B.S. in Nursing from Washington University. She worked at the Cochran VA Hospital in St. Louis, MO, until 1961, when she went to Jefferson Barracks VA Hospital. She served there for ten years. She retired in 1971.

Among the citations Pauline received were:

- ◇ American Theater Ribbon
- ◇ Victory Medal
- ◇ Overseas Service Bars (4)
- ◇ APT Ribbon w/2 Bronze Battle Stars
- ◇ Philippine Liberation Ribbon w/1 Bronze Battle Star

In 1974, Pauline became active in Clark County DAR, serving as Regent from 1978-1982, and attended Continental Congress twice. She was chairman of the President General's Project under two State Regents, and President of the Veteran's Club. She is also active at Immanuel Methodist Church, in Eastern Star, Lewis County Nursing Home Auxiliary, and other community volunteer activities. She was O.E.S. secretary for eighteen years.

Now 93 years old, (she will be 94 on November 2nd), Pauline is back in her hometown of Canton, MO, where she enjoys visiting with her many friends and relatives, and on occasion, traveling.

Her cousins, Sara Lyles (Osage Chapter, Sedalia) and Carol Ragar (Clark County, Kahoka) are honored to nominate Pauline Gorrell for Patriot of the Month, not only for her service to our country, but for her dedication to nursing and her many years of service in DAR.



MSSDAR Patriot of the Month
October 15-November 15, 2005