



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

**March 2007 Patriot of the Month
Rebecca Schmidt Enderle**



Rebecca Schmidt joined the Army Nurse Corps in April of 1942. She was assigned first to Canberra and Brisbane, Australia, to assist with opening the Stuartholome Hospital. After three years, in 1945, she was transferred to Manila, Philippines. Enduring mud and lizards, U.S. personnel waited with anticipation for the surrender of Japan. When Japan surrendered, Rebecca was given the choice of going home or going to Japan. She chose Japan and was sent to Yokohama, and assigned to the hospital ship, USS Marigold, which was anchored in the Japanese harbor. The USS Missouri, the ship on which the peace treaty with Japan had been signed several days earlier, was anchored there also.

On 11 September 1945, Prisoner of War General Hideki Tojo, Japan's wartime Prime Minister, attempted suicide with an American revolver. He was unsuccessful. Rebecca was one of four nurses chosen to care for General Tojo. When her assignment with General Tojo ended, and the processing of the prisoners of war was completed, Rebecca and her unit were moved to Tokyo to reopen an Episcopal hospital. When that assignment was completed, Rebecca came home and was discharged from the Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey. She had received the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the Philippine Liberation Medal. She then joined the Army Nurse Corps Reserves and was promoted to the rank of Captain.

When Rebecca left the Reserves early in 1946, she went to work at the VA Hospital in Maryland. It was there that she met and married her husband Rudolph Enderle. They moved to Keytesville, Missouri, to make their home.

In 1958, Rebecca joined the staff of St. Francis Hospital in Marceline, Missouri, working along side doctors, nurses, and the sisters of St. Francis. After the death of her husband, she retired from St. Francis in April of 1981, but six months later, she joined the staff at Marceline Healthcare. When she completed 50 years of nursing on 7 May 1990, she remarked that they were "the best years of my life."

Rebecca and Rudolph had one son. Over the years, Rebecca has participated in many community activities. One special highlight was when she served as Grand Marshal for General Sterling Price Day. Rebecca is a member of the Salisbury Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Rebecca was proudly nominated for Patriot of the Month by Ann Manson and Treva Friesz and members of the Missouri Pioneers Chapter.

(The photo is from Rebecca's personal album, taken when she was caring for General Tojo.)