



# Graham Hospital School of Nursing GHSON ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

WINTER ISSUE, 2013

*Everyone has stories... whether you stayed put or traveled the world...maybe you moved up in healthcare, were happy working the floor or took your nursing degree into another profession ... No matter where your nursing career has taken you, there are stories to tell of the places you've been or the patients who touched you. We want to hear your stories and share them with others in our newsletter. We will be using your stories from the oral histories that many of you shared with the library staff before our 100th anniversary but invite others to send their stories to us also.*

*In this issue, we are featuring Don Rand, Class of 1974. He has had a long career in the military and although retired from the army now; he is still not done! Don contacted us recently just to let us know where he is now. We thought his story was very interesting and asked for more! We hope you enjoy reading about Don's career with the military as much as we did.*

## MY NURSING STORY.....

**Robert D. (Don) Rand, RN**  
**U.S. Army (Retired)**  
**GHSON Class of 1974**

My medical life didn't begin with Graham Hospital School of Nursing. It actually began in 1964 as a Research Technician for Abbott Laboratories in Waukegan Illinois. The Vietnam war came along and I, along with about 400,000 other soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines were separated from their families in support of our efforts in Vietnam. I served my time as a Veterinary Technician, caring for the military working dogs, and inspecting local foods for acceptable sanitary use by military troops. After my discharge in 1969, I went back to work at Abbott again as a research technician working in radiopharmaceuticals developing a product for iron level determinations. I somehow knew this would not be a life profession and soon left to continue my college education.

My family and I pulled up stakes and headed for Western Illinois University where I continued my education in Chemistry. I soon discovered that I was going to courses just to get the courses on the book. I saw my counselor and he suggested some vocational testing. Naturally, they showed strong medical inclination. I had a very good friend in the Air Force who was the first male nurse I had heard of, and I admired both his drive, intelligence, and love for nursing. The deal was made, and I began searching for the closest nursing school to Macomb.

*Cont. on page 3*

## ALUMNI UPDATES...

**Class of 1934...** We would like to share the message from Doris Scaletti-Grove's granddaughter. "Grams passed away on February 2, 2012 at the wonderful age of 98. I apologize for the delay in notification. As you can imagine, it has been a difficult year. She loved very, very much her nursing history and never let anyone forget it. She was proud to be a GHSON Alumni. I love the legacy your school embraces, and thank you for keeping in touch with her all the way through. Your newsletters always cheered her up."

**Class of 1938...** As noted below, Kathryn Barclay passed away in December at the age of 100. You may remember we featured Kathryn in our Spring 2012 newsletter regarding her 100th birthday celebration. At the time of her death, Kathryn was the oldest retiree from the World War II Navy Nurse Corps.

**Class of 2010...Rebecca Burget** moved to Washington, Illinois last year and is enjoying her new community. She continues to work at OSF on 2300 Physical Rehab but has recently taken on the role as core Charge Nurse and looks forward to all the new opportunities it brings.

**Class of 2010...Amber (Furness) Tate** and her husband welcomed a baby girl, Presley Marie Tate, to the world on September 23, 2012. Presley also has a 2 year old big sister, Kennedy Grace.

**Thanks for sending us your update. Keep them coming! Please send us information about what is happening in your life—new jobs, educational pursuits, awards, marriages, babies, etc.**

**Please send your alumni update information to:**

**Lynne Waldrop, GHSON, 210 W. Walnut, Canton, IL 61520**

**or by email [lwaldrop@grahamhospital.org](mailto:lwaldrop@grahamhospital.org)**

**"Living with Cancer: Professional & Personal Perspectives"**

**April 5, 2013, 8 a.m.—4:30 pm**

**SRC Macomb Community Outreach Center**

WCIHCE (West Central Illinois Healthcare Continuing Education) is offering this seminar for healthcare professionals, social workers, spiritual leaders, cancer survivors, and family members. Conference topics include: area statistics; physician, nurse and survivor stories; lung cancer; breast and cervical cancer; oral cancer; colorectal and prostate cancer; as well as informational booths and a resource fair.

Call (309)833-6031 to register.

Fee: \$99 for professionals and \$59 for students

### *Upcoming Dates to Remember....*

**Time to pay your annual dues!**

**Send a check for \$10 payable to GHSON Alumni to: Mary Jane Mathews, 21014 E. Shelby Road, Lewistown, IL 61542.**

**April 4 Alumni Meeting at Graham Hospital, 3rd floor**

**May 17 Graduation @ 7 pm Wesley United Methodist Church**

**June 6 Alumni Meeting at Graham Hospital, 3rd floor**

### *IN SYMPATHY*

*Doris Scaletti-Grove  
Class of 1934  
February 2, 2012*

*Kathryn Barclay  
Class of 1938  
December 23, 2012*

*Lila Shaw Atwater  
Class of 1955  
April 29, 2012*

*JoAnn Bogner Parrott  
Class of 1975  
January 30, 2013*



## MY NURSING STORY (Cont).....

I was working at McDonough Hospital and nurses and techs there told me about Graham. I called for an appointment, met with Ms. Stockov who accepted me without question as I would not be taking any residence space. Thus began my Graham experience.

I went thru school with the single intention of re-joining the Air Force. Immediately after graduation, we moved to Green Bay, WI until I took the Nursing Boards. In July, I sat for the boards and then waiting for 2 months to find out if you passed (a nightmare of an experience). I passed. The same day I got my scores, I took my Oath of Office as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Air Force.

In January of 1975, I was sent to Scott Air Force Base outside of St. Louis and was assigned to the Orthopedics unit. The thing I found great about military nursing, was I was taking care of healthy young men and women who had injured themselves somehow. Very few systemic disease processes as those usually keep young folks out of the service to begin with. In August of 1977 I was transferred to the temporary medical facility of the Airevac system. Military personnel being transferred from one base to another for medical care would be housed, usually only overnight, and flown to their destination hospital the next day. Many interesting characters came thru the facility with an average turnover from day to day of about 50+ patients a day with every possible medical condition you could imagine.

In March of 1976, I was accepted for the Flight Nurse course and spent 5 weeks in San Antonio, TX going thru that training. I found out it was the 100<sup>th</sup> graduating class of the Flight Nurse School, and as class leader, was hauled around for a couple of weeks meeting Generals and Congressmen. At the end of the course, I was the only student to be handed orders to fly.

I started back at Scott Air Force Base, where I was 1 of 4 nurses in the Air Force to be assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. My primary aircraft was the C-130, but stationed at Scott, the home of the 57<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, we mainly flew the C-9A Nightengale. Once a month, I would fly to Pope Air Force Base, NC and fly the C-130 to keep current in that aircraft also. I eventually became qualified in the C-7, C-123, C-141, C-5, and HH-53 and HH-57 Helicopters along with the C-9 and C-130. The hard work, diligence and expectation of excellence taught to me at Graham allowed me to become first a Flight Instructor in all of the aircraft, but also the Senior Flight Evaluator (FIFE) for the Air force. I had a worldwide flight assignment and may fly to Germany one day, and head to Iran the next, or Japan and the Philippines for a month.

I accepted a second flying assignment (something that is extremely rare in the Nursing Field) and was transferred to Alaska where I remained on flying status traveling around Alaska to the many bases and outposts picking up sick or injured servicemen. After 6 years of flying, and over 3,000 flight hours, I came off flight status and was transferred to Wurtsmith AFB in Michigan. There, I was the officer in charge of OB, GYN, Labor and delivery. Quite a change from flying!

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## MY NURSING STORY (Cont).....

From Wurtsmith, we were sent to Misawa Air Base in the northern tip of the main island of Japan. Again, I was in charge of OB/GYN, Labor and Delivery. With my experience, I was also the High Risk Neonatal Nurse Consultant for the Pacific Air Force. Many months I delivered more babies than the OB doc just because he couldn't get to the hospital in time. From Japan, we moved to Keesler AFB, Mississippi. Again back to OB.

With the defense cutbacks in 1987, I decided it was time to get out of the service. After 15 1/2 years I hung up my wings. I went to work for the VA in Biloxi, and started my career in Psychiatric Nursing. After the VA and a couple of positions as director of some rehab centers, I was convinced that I needed to get back into the service. I had some neighbors who convinced me to try the Army. At first, I joined the Mississippi Guard, and served with a Combat Support Hospital from 1993 until 1997 when I switched over to the Army Reserve and served at Camp Shelby, training and evaluating medical units, making sure they met military standards for medical care.

In 2001, I began traveling around the country as units would be notified of their activation in support of the Iraq war, I would again make sure they were meeting standards, and training Combat Life Savers (front line soldiers with advanced life saving/trauma life support training). I was recognized for this effort and received medals for my effort.

In 2003, while at Ft. Bragg Special Operations Center (Special Forces), I received notification that I was being transferred (3 day notice) to the Pentagon with service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. There I case managed the reserve and guardsmen returning from theater and getting them thru their medical care and transitioning them to home.

I retired after 30years, 10 months and 23 days in the military, both Army and Air Force. More medals and ribbons than one should have, and more memories than my brain can hold. My highest award is the "Legion of Merit", only 4 medals higher in order. Every time I look at that medal, or think of it, I thank the American Legion 40 et 8, who gave me a cash scholarship to attend Graham Hospital School of Nursing.

Today, Terri, (my wife of 49 years) and I own 10 acres in Southern Mississippi just off the Gulf Coast. We have 3 daughters and 3 grand children. I am currently employed by the Army as a contract nurse at Camp Shelby running Case Management for the Reserve and national Guard soldiers deploying to combat areas making sure they are medically sound before deployment and that all their medical needs are met before they return to civilian life.

Retirement is often considered, but rapidly discarded and I love what I do, and love even more that Graham Hospital gave me the opportunity to have an incredible life.

Robert D "Don" Rand

Please feel free to email me at [don.rand@gmail.com](mailto:don.rand@gmail.com) or my army email of [don.rand@us.army.mil](mailto:don.rand@us.army.mil)