Mary K. Hoodak

U. S. N. R. Navy Nurse Corps

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Mary K. Hoodak joined the U.S. Navy Reserves during World War II at the age of 28 years. She was assigned to the Great Lakes, Illinois Naval Station and also went to Corpus Christy, Texas and North Island, California.

Mary and her sister Helen felt that it was a privilege to serve in the navy as Registered Nurses. Their patients were members of the navy, Marines, Army, Air Force and dependents of the military. They were deeply impressed by the loyalty to the USA and to the American Flag that was shown by the officers, enlisted men and women and from the dependents. Their patients were very respectful to the medical and nursing staff and had a nice respect for each other, regardless of race or religion.

They had ward inspection every Friday A.M. by an Admiral or a Captain. If the ward passed inspection, the doctor, nurse, corpsmen and the patients were very happy.

Mary was 36 years old when she returned to service during the Korean War and served at the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, Virginia. She achieved the rank of Lt. N.C.

Mary Hoodak
Auburn, Illinois