

# Bertha P. Kuniz Roy

## U.S. Navy WAVES Nurse-Great Lakes



**Bertha P. Kuznik Roy**  
U.S. Navy Nurse  
WWII

Bertha Roy grew up in Springfield, Illinois and volunteered for the U.S. Navy Waves on November 9, 1944. Bertha was stationed at Great Lakes, Illinois and trained as a nurse. She served as a Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class during her Navy years. In a video made for the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College in 2000, Bertha told of her many tasks i.e. completing medical screening of sailors for military duty and using her nursing skills to treat those who became ill. She recalled that penicillin was available only for the military then and sailors in sick bay got shots of penicillin every 4 hours around the clock no matter what the reason was for their illnesses.

Bertha was transferred to a military center in St. Louis, Missouri where she processed thousands of veterans for discharge back to civilian life. Bertha also worked in a hospital where soldiers and sailors were suffering from post traumatic stress and hav-

ing problems adjusting. She met her future husband, Neal Roy, while working at this hospital. She was discharged on May 19, 1948 and returned to Springfield where she spent the rest of her life.

Bertha retired from the Illinois Department of Revenue and was an active member and treasurer for many years for the Interveterans Council of Sangamon County. She was also a member of the Women's Overseas Service League. Bertha Roy died on June 18, 2004 and is buried at Camp Butler National Cemetery.

Bertha Kuznik Roy, Springfield, Illinois  
(Prepared in part by her son David N. Roy)