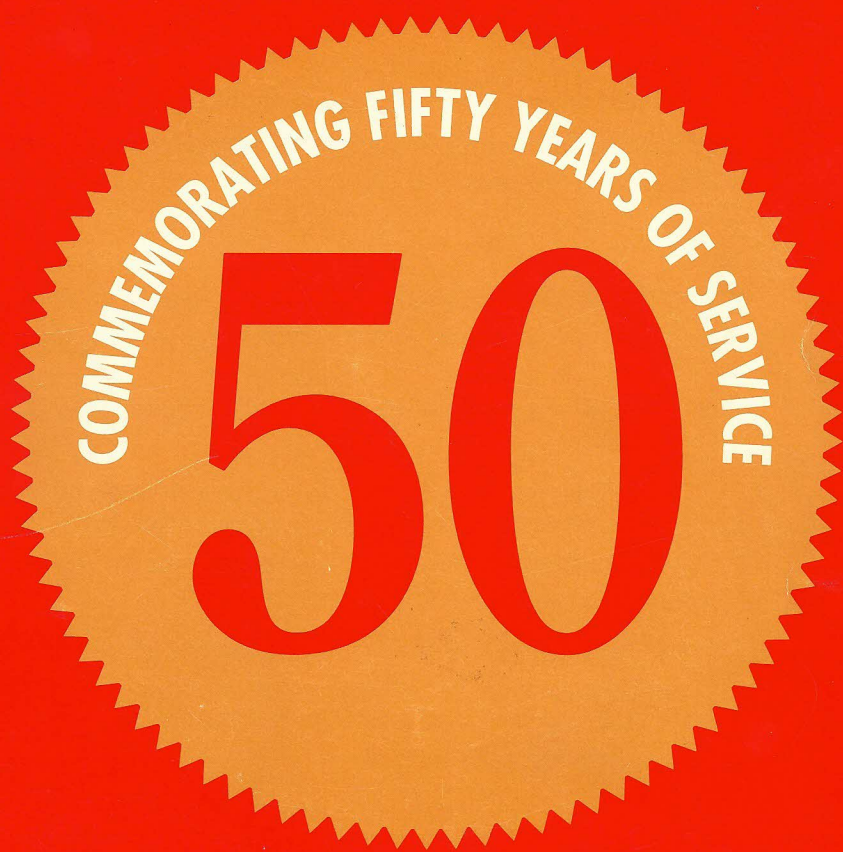


*A Salute to the*  
**CADET NURSE CORPS**



# Fifty Years of the

*July 29, 1940*

Representatives of national nursing organizations formed the Nursing Council on National Defense.

*September 1940*

The Health and Medical Subcommittee of the Council on National Defense was formed to analyze military and civilian needs for professional and auxiliary nursing services; plan to meet these needs; and correlate U.S. nursing services with other allied countries as needed.

*1941*

Number of women admitted to schools of nursing was 41,397.

*1942*

Admissions reached 47,500, still not enough.

*April 1942*

Ten thousand nurses were in the Army and Navy. An additional 10,000 were needed by July.

*1942*

Seventy-seventh Congress appropriated funds for the training of nurses by refresher courses; post-graduate education in special fields; and increased student enrollment in basic nursing schools through the Labor Federal Security Agency Appropriation Act of 1942.

*1943*

Army issued a call for a total corps of 35,000 nurses.

*1943*

Congress doubled the funds appropriated to \$3,500,000 and participating schools increased by 6,588 students.

*March 29, 1943*

Representative Frances Payne Bolton (R-Ohio) introduced a bill to "provide for the training of nurses for the armed forces, governmental and civilian hospitals, health agencies, and war industries through grants to institutions providing for training and for other purposes."

*June 15, 1943*

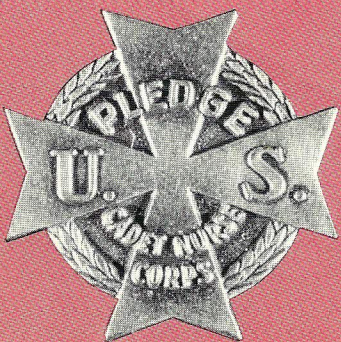
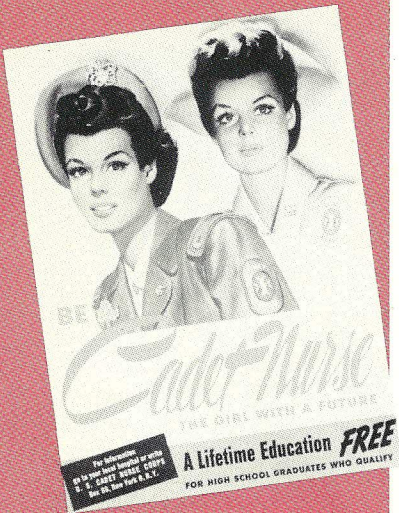
The Nurse Training Act (also known as the Bolton Act) passed both Houses of Congress and was ready for the signature of President Franklin Roosevelt.

*July 1, 1943*

The Nurse Training Act became Public Law 74.

*June 23, 1943*

The Public Health Service's (PHS) Division of Nursing was established and Lucile Petry was appointed director. She was the first woman to head a major PHS division.



**Photos top to bottom:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Nurse Training Act (Bolton Act), which established the Cadet Nurse Corps, on June 15, 1943, as Surgeon General Thomas Parran looks on; Lucile Petry, director of the Division of Nurse Education and head of the Cadet Nurse Corps; a Cadet Nurse Corps recruitment poster; Cadet Nurse Corps pledge pin. Unless otherwise credited, all photos are courtesy of National Library of Medicine, History of Medicine Department, Bethesda, Maryland.

# Cadet Nurse Corps

*August 17, 1943*

The cadet uniforms were chosen at a fashion contest held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. The fashion press selected a design by Molly Parnis. The Corps' beret was designed by Sally Victor based upon the Montgomery beret.

*1944*

Twelve thousand students became senior cadets.

*April 1944*

First assignees were 27 senior cadets to the Navy, 19 to the Indian Health Services, and 10 to the Veterans Administration.

*May 1944*

Nine assignees were made to the Marine Hospital, Public Health Service.

*June 1944*

Seven hundred women were assigned to Army Hospitals.

*May 6, 1944*

The first time the cadets appeared en masse at the dedication of residence halls for nurses at Adelphi College in Garden City, New Jersey.

*May 14, 1944*

Nationwide, via NBC radio broadcast, 96,000 Cadet Nurses pledged themselves to "essential nursing services." Surgeon General Thomas Parran was joined by Eleanor Roosevelt, Representative Frances Payne Bolton (R-Ohio), and Helen Harp in Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C., for the ceremony.

*1945*

Eighty-five percent of nursing students in the country were cadet nurses. Twenty-five thousand cadets were ready for assignment.

*March 7, 1945*

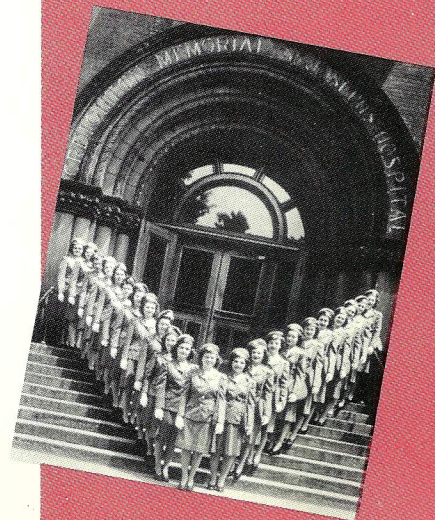
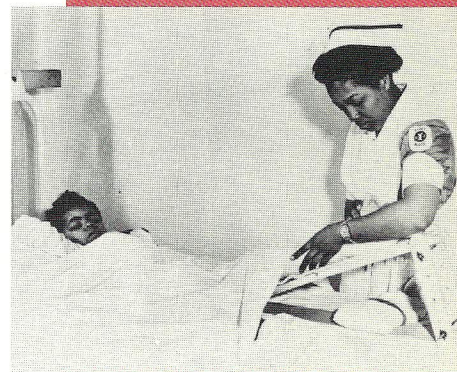
H.R. 2277, bill to draft nurses, passed the House. The draft did not apply to women with dependent children or to women married before March 15, 1945. Certain religious groups were exempted and the bill also prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, or creed.

*April 9, 1945*

H.R. 2277 was brought to the floor of the Senate but was passed over. A month later the Germans surrendered.

*October 15, 1945*

President Truman directed Surgeon General Parran to discontinue admission to the Cadet Nurse Corps effective "upon the date of termination of hostilities."



Photos top to bottom: Cadets Lorna Jones, Audrey Booth, Marguerite Imrie, Barbara Crew at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio (photo courtesy of Barbara Crew Long); Cadet Nurse adjusting traction for a patient at Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D.C.; the official flag of the Cadet Nurse Corps, featuring a Maltese Cross emblazoned on a field of white, is displayed by two Cadets; Cadets assemble in a V for victory at Creighton University (photo courtesy of Creighton University).