

Pennsylvania Nurses In Military Service

By K. Stephen Anderson, CRNA, Board Member

Beatrice Fritzing and Col. Kent Persinger, CRNA, represent many Pennsylvania nurses that unselfishly serve their country.

Mrs. Fritzing of Freeland, Luzerne County, entered the Army Air Corps in the 1940s, following graduation from nursing school. She served both in this country and two years in the European theater of operations. Returning home, she continued her nursing career as a school nurse for 32 years. Later, she volunteered for the American Red Cross. Mrs. Fritzing attended the dedication of the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery on Oct. 1, 1999. Her Army dress uniform is displayed in the Hazleton Museum. She states, "It was a full nursing career, and I enjoyed it so much."

Col. Kent Persinger was deployed from May to November 2003 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Persinger was a member of the 624th Forward Surgical team attached of the Third Brigade of the First Armored Division. His second deployment was from February to July 2007 as the sole anesthesia provider for Medical Force Falcon Twenty Ninth Division, part of the NATO Mission for the protection of Kosovo.

Col. Persinger was born and raised in Muncie, Indiana, with the expectation that his life's work would be as a production/assembly worker. After three years as an assembly worker and a paramedic, Persinger entered Ball State University and earned a degree in Natural Sciences. While employed with the National Park Service, Persinger performed duties in search and rescue, piquing an interest in the medical profession.

After relocating to western Pennsylvania, Persinger entered Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh. Following graduation he was employed in the intensive care unit at Meadville Medical Center in Crawford County. Entering Hamot Medical Center School of Anesthesia in 1988, Persinger graduated in 1990 with a degree from Edinboro University and was employed at Hamot Medical Center. In 2000, he earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Gannon University.

Today he is the senior associate director and clinical coordinator at Hamot Medical Center School of Anesthesia.

Col. Persinger has served his country since 1981, first as an enlisted soldier and then as a commissioned officer in the Army Nurse Corps.

The State Board of Nursing salutes all Pennsylvania nurses that have and continue to serve their fellow countrymen and women.

In Memoriam: The board received notice in November that one of the victims of the Nov. 5 shootings at the Fort Hood military base in Texas was a nurse educated in Pennsylvania. Juanita Lee Warman, RN, CRNP, graduated from Ohio Valley General Hospital in 1984 and later completed her CRNP education at the University of Pittsburgh. The board is grateful for her patriotic service and extends the professional community's sympathy to her family.

2010 Board Meeting Dates

- Jan. 7- 8, 2010
- Feb. 23 - 24, 2010
- March 2010 – no meeting
- April 12 -13, 2010
- May 25- 26, 2010
- June 28- 29, 2010

Meeting dates for the second half of the year are posted on the board [Web site](#). Please contact the board office at (717) 783-7142 for specific location information.

Other News:

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