

Recruitment poster by  
Carolyn Moorhead Edmundson 1943



# THE U. S. CADET NURSE CORPS: Commemorating 70 Years of Service

Elsie M. Szecsy, EdD

Thelma Robinson, RN, MS, PNP

Elizabeth Yeznach, RN, BS, MS

# The Bolton Act – Nurse Training Act



Rep. Frances Payne Bolton  
(Rep.), Ohio

Source: Frances Payne Bolton  
School of Nursing, Case Western  
Reserve University

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>When</b>
H.R. 2326: Nurse Training Act introduced	March 29, 1943
H.R. 2326: hearings held	May 7-8, 1943
H.R. 2664: Nurse Training Act (The Bolton Act) passed	May 12, 1943
President of the United States approved the Bolton Act	June 15, 1943
First meeting of Advisory Committee on Training for Nurses	June 25-26, 1943
Public Law 74 (The Bolton Act) enacted	July 1, 1943
Rules and regulations governing the program approved	July 5, 1943
Rules and regulations governing the program published in the Federal Register	July 9, 1943

# Program Features

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- ❑ **For high school graduates age 17-35**
- ❑ **Accelerated curriculum** with Senior Cadet Nurse supervised clinical practice during last 6 months of training
- ❑ **Scholarships** for tuition, books and supplies, uniforms, housing
- ❑ **Monthly stipend**
- ❑ **Pledge** to be available for military, or other Federal, governmental, or essential civilian services for the duration of World War II
- ❑ **Available to all**, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or marital status
- ❑ **Funding support** for curriculum and program development



Lucile Petry, R.N., Director,  
Division of Nurse Education,  
U.S. Public Health Service

# Context and Outcomes

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## Concurrent Streams

- **Address a critical shortage of nurses**
- **Redefine nursing as a profession**
- **Migrate from apprenticeship to academic model for nurse education**
- **Expand the nurse's role**

## Accomplishments

- **Prevented the collapse of the U.S. healthcare system** during World War II and post-war years.
- **Standardized nurse education curricula** according to guidelines so that all Cadet Nurses received similar training experiences, regardless of race or ethnicity.
- **Advanced an agenda** begun before World War II **to improve the quality of nurse education** and **to balance supply and demand for nurses.**

National Cadet  
Nurse Corps  
Induction Day  
May 13, 1944

Photo courtesy of  
[cadetnurse.com](http://cadetnurse.com)



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## Cadet Nurse Experiences

Thelma Robinson, RN, MS, PNP  
Elizabeth Yeznach, RN, BS, MS

# Learning and Working Commitments

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Lucile Petry, R.N., Emeritus Director  
Division of Nurse Education, U.S. Public Health Service

Images courtesy of cadetnurse.com



# Career & Education Paths

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- ❑ Professor
- ❑ Administrator
- ❑ Staff Nurse
- ❑ Supervising Nurse
- ❑ Community Health
- ❑ Public Health

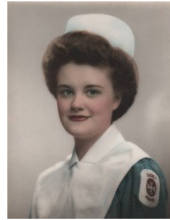


- ❑ Doctor's Office Nurse
- ❑ School Nurse Practitioner
- ❑ ER
- ❑ Military
- ❑ VA
- ❑ Indian Service



# A Lifetime Education FREE

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By Jon Whitcomb, 1944

Official flag of the Cadet Nurse Corps features a Maltese Cross emblazoned on a field of white.



## Resources

[Online](#) | [Books](#) | [Recent Research](#)



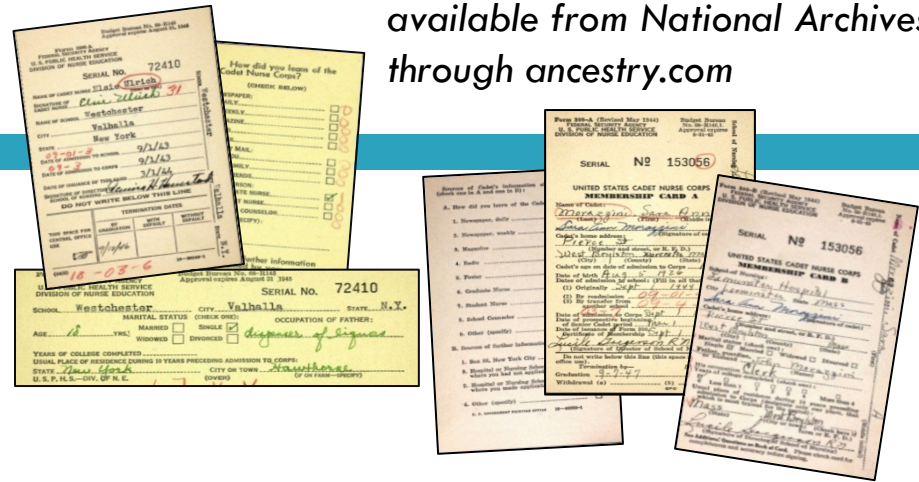
By Alexander Ross  
1945

# Online Resources

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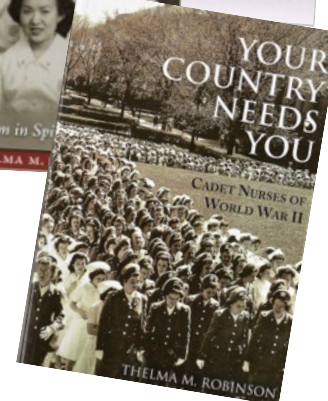
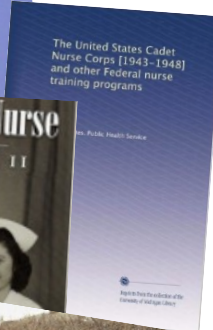
**USCNC Membership Cards**  
available from National Archives  
through [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

- ❑ **uscadetnurse.org**
  - ❑ <http://uscadetnurse.org>
- ❑ **Cadet Nurse Project**
  - ❑ <http://cadetnurse.com>
- ❑ **Reward Unlimited (USCNC Recruitment film)**
  - ❑ <http://uscadetnurse.org/links>
- ❑ **Women in Military Service to America Memorial**
  - ❑ <http://www.womensmemorial.org/index.html>



# Books

- ❑ Kalisch, B. & Kalisch, P. (1973). *Cadet Nurse: The Girl with a Future*. *Nursing Outlook*, 21(7), pp. 444-449.
- ❑ Robinson, T. & Perry, P. (2001). *Cadet Nurse Stories*. Indianapolis, IN: Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.
- ❑ Robinson, T. (2005). *Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II: Patriotism in Spite of Prejudice*. Boulder, CO: Black Swan Mill Press.
- ❑ Robinson, T. (2009). *Your Country Needs You: Cadet Nurses of World War II*. Bloomington, IN: Xlibris.
- ❑ U.S. Public Health Service (1950). *The United States Cadet Nurse Corps, 1943-1948*. PHS Publication No. 38. Washington, D.C. United States Government Printing Office.



# Research Activity



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	Topic	Field
<b>Nancy Heard</b> , <i>Mississippi State University</i> <i>Thesis in progress</i>	The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps in the Deep South	History
<b>Meghann Lanae Landry</b> , <i>Louisiana State University</i> <i>Thesis, 2012</i>	Fashioning the future: The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, 1943-1948	History
<b>April Matthias, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E.</b> <i>University of North Carolina, Wilmington</i> <i>Research in progress</i>	1946 graduates of the Cadet Nurse Corps BSN program at the University of Cincinnati	Nursing
<b>Joseph Provenzano, Ph.D.</b> , <i>American University</i> <i>Dissertation, 2008</i>	Federal nurse training legislation: A study in legislative opportunity	Education
<b>Elsie Szecsy, Ed.D.</b> , <i>Arizona State University</i> <i>Research in progress</i>	Crosscurrents in the desert: The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps in Arizona, 1943-1948	History



Thank you!