

Vietnam War Commemoration Lecture Series



Stories of a New Army Nurse

Presented by Susan Backs

April 19, 2017

Reception at 5:30 p.m. • Presentation at 6 p.m.

Riverfront Community Center • 123 S Esplanade St. • Leavenworth, KS 66048

Susan Backs is a retired Army nurse who served 23 years on active duty. She was initially assigned to duty at the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh, Vietnam from 1970 to 1971, as a staff nurse in a 25-bed POW unit and 25-bed orthopedic/gentourinary unit. In her presentation Backs will talk about her experiences taking care of Soldiers and discuss the history of wartime nurses from her perspective and how nursing responsibilities, while always critical, have grown over the years.



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Following the assignment in Vietnam, Backs went on to many new assignments in medical surgical, obstetrics, newborn nursery and operating room nursing. She has held many positions in the operational Army and on senior staffs at Department of the Army level. She was the first nurse from any service to graduate from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) [now known as the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy] at the National Defense University in Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. She was also the chief of nursing quality assurance of the 550-bed Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. from 1987-1990, with 1,000 nursing personnel in her charge. Prior to that assignment, Backs was the principle nurse advisor to the commander for coordinated and managed nurse recruiting programs in 11 northeastern states, the District of Columbia, Virginia and portions of West Virginia while assigned to the 1st Recruiting Brigade (1985-1987) and the Army Nurse Corps Career Activities Office in Washington, D.C. (1982-1984). She also served in numerous other nursing assignments in Germany and the U.S.

**Join us April 19 for this sixth lecture in the series.
All lectures are free and open to the public.**

Presented by

Dept. of Military History –
U.S. Army Command and
General Staff College



U.S. Army Garrison
Fort Leavenworth

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Henry Leavenworth Chapter