

## Kathleen W. Twigg, Auxiliary President 1955-1957



Kathleen Gladhill Wells Twigg was born in Harrisburg, PA on August 17<sup>th</sup> 1907. She was the second of thirteen children raised in Emmitsburg, MD. She had a dream of becoming a nurse since she was a young child inspired by her grandmother, who often committed her time to the ill and dying. Kathleen's career in nursing began following her graduation from the St. Agnes School of Nursing in 1925. Kathleen became a registered nurse at St. Agnes and Sinai hospitals in Baltimore, Md., then later at Hanover Hospital in Hanover, Pa.

Kathleen's first husband was Earl Wells. He became ill in the 1940s and she cared for him until his death in 1948 in her in-laws home. For additional income she cared for other sick people in the home. Following his death, Kathleen made the decision to convert the 19<sup>th</sup> – century house into one of the first nursing homes in Maryland beginning with 12 patients. It was the first licensed nursing home in Carroll County. In 1950 she married Newman Twigg, a practical nurse. They worked in the home together until selling the business in 1956 to Ralph and Martha Tarutis. Newman Twigg died in 1986. It was around this time that Kathleen created the current name of the nursing home, "Long View" when she was standing along a railed walkway of the roof and could see her home town of Emmitsburg.

Many members of the community spoke of Kathleen's tremendous regards to the health and welfare of others. "She said her patients were like her children," said the late Mrs. Tarutis. She was a committed member of St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church in Manchester where she was a communicant for over 50 years. "If a patient was dying and had no family, she'd cancel her plans and stay with that person and hold their hand so they would not die alone," said Father Michael J. Roach. She was also known for her quilts that she made and donated to charity.

Kathleen Twigg was one of the 38 founders of the Auxiliary Charter. She was a former president of the American Legion Auxiliary from 1955-1957. She held other offices including 1st vice president, treasurer, and executive committee member through the early 1970's. She was a mentor to our president Faye Dell and was instrumental in teaching her the rules and regulations of the auxiliary. During this time period dinners were prepared and hosted for community organizations including the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and the Jaycees. Some of Kathleen's most notable charitable works was her devotion to the Rosewood School, Perry Point, and Ft. Howard Veteran's hospitals. She dedicated her time to Camp West Mar, was a delegate at large at the Maryland State convention and volunteered as a nurse at a Girl's State week in Annapolis. Kathleen passed away on August 14, 1996 at the age of 87 at the Long View Nursing Center.

Each year in memory of Kathleen Twigg the auxiliary offers a scholarship to graduating seniors from North Carroll High School and Manchester Valley High school. Students obtain the scholarship applications from their school, then completed forms are reviewed by a panel of unit members and winners are selected. Scholarships go directly to the recipient's college. The scholarships are presented in person from an auxiliary member at the graduating class awards ceremony. In addition to this, primary school children write essays that are judged by auxiliary members and awards are given.

Thank you to Sandra Martin and family for providing information about Mrs. Kathleen Twigg's legacy. Congratulations on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Long View Nursing Center.