



## Where Are They Now...

*Vera Kreitzer,*

### **Charter Member and Past President of the Hampstead American Legion Auxiliary Unit 200**

Our most recent interview for the American Legion Auxiliary was with Vera Kreitzer. Vera was one of the original charter members that was formed in 1950. She was also our third American Legion Auxiliary president from 1953-1954. Born October 19, 1925 in Jonesville, Virginia. Vera Quinley moved to Rayville, Maryland in Baltimore County with her family when she was a young girl.

Vera married her husband, Clyde in 1947 who was a WWII Army soldier. Clyde had been stationed in Okinawa, Japan as a pilot in training and later became an engineer. He was originally from Melrose, Maryland and raised on his family farm. The farm is now owned by the Sellers family today. When we asked Vera why she joined the American Legion Auxiliary she gave the answer that most of our past members have given. She joined because her husband was a member of the American Legion. In fact, Clyde was a past Commander. Vera has good memories of friends from the Auxiliary including other past presidents like Mazie Rohrbaugh and Martha Wisner. She remembers meeting in the building on the corner of route 30 and route 88 when it was also used as a teen center.

In addition to her service to the Auxiliary Vera worked at Baltimore Gas and Electric and at Black and Decker in the payroll department. She mentioned that on pay day employees would be paid in cash with two dollar bills that were placed in a small envelope. Vera stopped working outside of her home when her first child was born. She has two sons and two daughters. She also has one grandson and one granddaughter and one great-grandson. Her family all lives relatively close to her home in Manchester, Maryland.

Her husband Clyde worked for the Postal service for twenty seven years. He was able to retire with thirty years because he was able to include his years of military service with his time at the Post office. Clyde also started an insurance business in Manchester. In those days you were not able to carry an insurance business in your name when employed with another business so he put the insurance business in Vera's name. She was truly in the insurance business because she had to take the tests required to hold the license and she did much of the work herself. Vera and Clyde were also members of the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department. Vera has been both an Auxiliary president for the Fire Department in Manchester as well as Carroll County Fire Department Auxiliary president in charge of the twelve auxiliaries in the county. Clyde and Vera enjoyed traveling later in life to many wonderful places. Vera mentioned that Clyde along with some army buddies helped organize reunions throughout the country to visit other army friends. They went to Montana, Hawaii, and cruised in the Bahamas. Clyde passed away in 2007.

Today, Vera still keeps herself busy. She is a member of Bixlers United Methodist Church where she is famous for making her wonderful chicken corn soup for church fundraisers. She loves to read and keep up with recent news in the newspaper. For fun she does word searches to keep herself sharp and believe me she still is. Also, watching sports on TV is a favorite pass time especially baseball. She credits her family for helping her out since she gave up driving but all in all she is quite self-sufficient.

Vera is a lovely lady both physically and in personality and we enjoyed our visit with her very much. We thank her for her service to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 200 and we wish her continued good health and happiness.