# **RN INFORMATION YOU CAN USE**

## Lasting Bonds: A Famous Pearl Harbor Nurse Survivor Remembered

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Monica begins to recall that long ago morning with her eyes closed and a voice full of emotion. She speaks with precise clarity, vividly recalling the horrifying events that transpired on the "Day of Infamy," with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and describes the utter disbelief as she watched and cared for the hundreds of wounded and dead soldiers that were brought to Hickam Air Force Base Hospital in Hawaii.

Monica Benning is the only living nurse who was on duty the day Pearl Harbor was attacked. Monica met her future husband, Barney, (married 63 years) only a few weeks prior to the bombing. They were married August 21, 1942 and raised two sons and a daughter. Monica and Barney's love story was the basis of the film, Pearl Harbor. Bernard Benning Lt Col, USAR was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on June 5, 2005. Monica also wrote, A Real Nurse' Dream: An Army Nurse's Experiences During World War II. The book was written in March-April, 1943 in Apalachicola, Florida but was never published until 2007.

FNA members Pat Messmer and Marydelle Polk arranged to visit Monica at her living facility in Fort Myers. Monica showed them all her memorabilia and her gold plated dog tags. She was most proud of the pictures and clippings which showed her as the recruiting model for the Army Nurse Corps, featured in the April 1941 issue of the American Journal of Nursing when she was the Army nurse representative at an American Red Cross ceremony. A Banyan tree was planted at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii about two weeks after the Pearl Harbor Attack and was dedicated in Monica's honor in 2001. Tom Brokaw also wrote about Monica and Barney in his book, Greatest Generation and spent time with Monica at the Pearl Harbor Survivors 65th anniversary December 4-7, 2006 in Hawaii.



Marydelle Polk and Patricia R. Messmer, with 2nd LT Monica Conter Benning, Army Nurse Corps (January 1940-December 1942) in July 2008.

## **Best Places To Work, Florida Weighs In**

Modern Healthcare, a leading publication in healthcare business news, opinion and commentary, recently release its first list of Best Places to Work in Healthcare supplement. Its new honors and awards program recognizes workplaces in healthcare that enable employees to perform at their optimum level to provide patients and customers with the best possible care and services. To determine those workplaces, *Modern Healthcare* entered into a partnership with the Best Companies Group, a firm that conducts regional "best places to work" programs across the country. Organizations and companies from all segments of the healthcare industry with a minimum of 25 full-time employees were eligible.

Florida weighed in heavily on this list with six workplaces listed in the 100 listed across the nation. FNA extends congratulations to the following workplaces and their rankings:

President Andrea Gregg, Legislative Counsel Anna Small and Executive Director Willa Fuller were pleased to travel to Jacksonville to do a presentation on the role of the Florida Nurses Association in advocacy for nurses across the state. Theresa Stanton, a member of FNA District 2 and a graduate student, asked FNA to participate in special assignment. The speakers gave presentations and then fielded questions from registered nurses and students who came from several area schools. The event was held at Florida Community College at Jacksonville. Debra Brabham, FNA Board member was also on hand to participate in the discussions. Several of the attendees commented regarding not being aware of all the work FNA has done and continues to do on nurses' behalf. **PLACES**<sup>10</sup>WORK

- Baptist Health South Florida in Coral Gables, ranking at #9;
- JSA Healthcare Corp. in St. Petersburg, ranking at #43;
- Baptist Health in Jacksonville, ranking at #56;
- Lakewood Ranch Medical Center in Bradenton, ranking at #57;

in

- Avisena in Miami, ranking at #74; and
- Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Tallahassee, ranking at #92.

For more information on the entire list, please visit modernhealthcare.com.

### **FNA Leaders on the Road**





#### Rob Williams, Orangejack, LLC

It has never been easier than it is today to have a personal online presence. Websites like MySpace, Facebook, blogs and all sorts of other social sites allow anyone to easily share and publish anything online. People are uploading videos to YouTube.com, sharing photos on Flickr.com and finding interesting news on Digg.com.



**Rob Williams** 

Consider going online and joining a community of like-minded people. It can be a lot of fun and quite rewarding. You can connect with your friends and colleagues both locally and long distance. I've found that being online has not only strengthened local friendships/colleagues, but also I've been able to reconnect with old friends/ colleagues, stay in touch with out of town family and have even made some good friends with people I've "met" online.

However, when you venture online there are a few things you should keep in mind.

**Do** find one website community that you'd like to join and sign up. It's usually free and easy. The decision of which one to join should be based on where your friends are or what you want to do. For instance, Facebook.com is great for connecting with friends. Linkedin.com is great for professional networking.

**Don't** sign up for every social website or blog right away. You'll end up spreading yourself too thin. Pick one or two and start there.

**Do** tell others a bit about yourself. Most sites give you an area to fill out a personal profile. Feel free to tell what some of your interests, hobbies and biographical information are. It is about being social and we want to get to know you.

**Don't** tell us everything about yourself. There are some things that should stay offline. Ask yourself what you believe should be protected. Not everyone has the same answer. Use discretion when deciding to publish contact information like your email addresses, phone numbers and home address.

**Do** upload a nice photo of yourself so your friends can recognize you.

**Don't** use a photo that is potentially offensive or unprofessional.

**Do** add value to your profile by uploading or sharing things that are interesting. Communicating virtually can actually be quite real. Social media sites are about having online conversations so participate.

Don't post just anything online. Remember that if it is on the Internet, anyone can find it even if it is password protected. You wouldn't want a perspective employer to see all the skeletons in your closet before an interview! Some have found it helpful to use a measuring stick before publishing anything such as "Would it be okay if my kids, spouse or parents saw this?" Reconnect with friends/colleagues strengthen your friendships online. Reach out and meet new people on the Internet. It can be fun, rewarding and productive! Be yourself but use discretion. Just like in your offline practices, stay friendly and professional and you'll go a long way! Orangejack LLC is an Internet consulting group based in Órlando, Florida. Started by Rob & Patricia Williams, Orangejack helps others use the Internet well through effective strategy, marketing, design, and social media. Learn more at www.orangejack. com.

It was a very positive and rewarding day.



Participants learned about FNA from several different points of view.

Deborah Brabham (FNA Director), Willa Fuller (FNA Executive Director) and Anna Small (FNA Lobbyist).



Willa Fuller (FNA Executive Director), Andrea Gregg (FNA President), Anna Small (FNA Lobbyist) and Terry Stanton (FNA District 2).

Get online with FNA at myspace.com/ floridanursesassociation and on Facebook. Check out bulletins, blogs, photos and more!.