



## Florence Louise Schilling

May 4, 1923 - January 22, 2018

Florence Louise Platko Schilling passed away Monday Jan 22, 2018 just 4 months shy of her 95th birthday. Florence was born on May 4, 1923 in Portage, Pennsylvania to Joseph and Anna Platko.

With her near photographic memory, she excelled in school, graduating as valedictorian of her class at the age of 17 and then attended Mercy Nursing School in Altoona, Pennsylvania where she graduated in just three years.

Florence took pride in serving in the U. S. Army surgery, in the 138th Evac hospital (M.A.S.H unit) in Germany and France, as the youngest nurse in the European theater of War. She was discharged in May, 1946 to join her family who had relocated to Ashland, Oregon.

Florence practiced nursing for 40 years in Ashland. Florence worked at Ashland General Hospital in OB and surgery until September, 1951. She joined Charles Haines, M.D. as his office nurse until January, 1954. On June 27, 1953 Florence married Earl Christian Schilling.

She went on to do private duty nursing, relieved in the recovery room at the hospital and was in charge of the local blood bank until 1965. She was responsible for starting the fund that eventually moved the hospital to its current location in 1959.

Florence was the surgical supervisor at Ashland Community Hospital in August, 1965-Sept. 1972. She became the office nurse and then physician's assistant to Aubrey M. Hill M.D. in Oct. 1972-Dec. 1988 when she retired.

Florence's fondness for Harlequin romance novels was only surpassed by her love for Bingo, gambling, Pennsylvania sports teams, scrabble, a good hamburger & root beer floats.

Florence was an active and involved member of Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church, helping with the fundraising for the move from the location on B Street to its current location on Hillview Drive. She loved to read her bible at night claiming she was "studying for finals!"

She and her husband Earl enjoyed their retirement playing golf, traveling around the United States and spending time with their children, their spouses and grandchildren.

Florence is now reunited with her husband Earl, and son Christopher. She is preceded in

death by her parents as well as two sisters and five brothers. She is survived by her sister Bernice Haines (Talent, OR), daughter Janet (Portland, OR) and sons Steve (wife Karen-Portland, OR), Mike (wife Joyce-Ashland, OR), grandchildren Meredith, Courtney, and Kevin along with two great grandchildren Elizabeth and Rebecca.

Many thanks to the wonderful staffs at Ashwood Senior care, Oxford Gardens Senior care both of Ashland, Providence Hospice of Medford, And the Veteran's Administration doctors & nursing staff in White City.

Memorial service is pending.

In lieu of flowers the family prefers donations go to WWII Women's Memorial in Washington D.C. or Ashland Community Hospital Foundation.

# Comments

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“ Dear Mike,

We are so sorry about the loss of your mom. Thank you for letting us know. She was a great lady, and you did a great job of looking after her in her later years. Thank you for writing and sending photos and videos of your mom in recent years. You honored her and her service and allowed us to keep in touch with her.

It is going to be hard for us to be without these dear ones, but they are going to their well deserved rest. They have served well all of their lives. They will not have any health issues, and they will have a tremendous reunion on the other side. I picture them restored in heaven as they were in the group photo you sent at Christmas.

I told my dad about your email. He has memories of your mom too. He said in the 138th they sometimes called her "Platts." He remembers that he and my mom met with your mom in a restaurant in your town during their retirement trip around the U.S. in an RV. He thinks that you were there too. This would have been in the 90s. Do you remember that?

It has been my dad's privilege to try to keep in touch with the 138th, a great group of people. I haven't met any of them in person, but each year I got to read their cards and letters that they sent to Dad. They all treasured the friendships and their past experiences together. During the past year, several people from the 138th passed on. With your mom's passing, with the exception of my Dad, there is only one other nurse remaining that we know of. We are still in correspondence with some 138th family members, so we will send out at least one more letter to update and summarize. Dad has multiple health issues and is completely blind. Recently he has been sleeping a lot more. He will be 98 on February 29. Nevertheless, he is so happy to have been able to kept in touch with his friends from the 138th as long as there are any still here and to complete this task he chose. It has been a unique opportunity for him to serve with them and to know them throughout his lifetime. My brother and I joined on each of the past 15 Thanksgiving Days to help send out the letters, and we were blessed too.

Our thoughts and prayers to you and your family as you deal with the sadness of losing your mom. God bless you.

Best wishes,  
Jean Sims for  
Chappie

**Mike Schilling** - January 29, 2018 at 04:25 PM

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“ My condolences-I agree with your hope that she is at one with those who passed before. She was a wonderful person. Mark Souder. Seattle, WA

Janet Schilling - January 28, 2018 at 06:53 PM

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“ Dear Janet, Mike, Steve and families, We are very sad to hear about Aunt Flo's death this morning. We know that you all did a superb job of taking care of her these last years. Jerry and I always felt a special connection to Aunt Flo. She always made us feel welcome. I always encouraged her to tell me about the front line nursing in World War II. She was so young yet so brave and super competent. I have several time retold some of her stories to the amazement of listeners. She was such a witty, intelligent lady and we will miss her very much. Our love and best wishes, Jerry and Zana Miller Bethesda, MD

Janet Schilling - January 28, 2018 at 06:49 PM

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“ Aunt Florence was one of those women who warmed your heart. She had a great laugh; robust and often heard from another room. I always enjoyed visiting my Aunt and she welcomed me with a game of Scrabble and many times a delicious meal. We had summers of swimming in their pool in my younger years. We went to their cabin at lake-of-the-Woods and my parents tried to teach several of the kids how to water ski. Aunt Florence's hands were those of a helper and a caring soul. Her work as a nurse used those hands in talented ways. And her hands touched softly her family. I thank God for her being a part of my life.  
Your niece, Judi Butler, Sanford, North Carolina

Janet Schilling - January 28, 2018 at 06:31 PM