

The DKG meeting was held on March 16, 2023 at the Northville Library. Jackie Smart called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm with 22 in attendance.

Jackie reminded the members about the State Convention. Registration for April 21 -23 events is on-line and the password was given. If anyone has received a Doctorate degree in 2022, please let her know.

Please keep Kay Diggs in your prayers as she is fighting a very serious illness and is in hospice. Kay was a member in the 80s.

Seedlings is looking for volunteers for the On-Line Auction. Volunteers can choose their own jobs for the auction. A meeting for volunteering will be held in June. Please see Jackie for the information.

After these brief announcements, Carol Anderson introduced her sister-in-law and our speaker, Margaret M. Flatt, PHD, RN, and Vietnam Veteran. Dr. Flatt was Dean of the School of Nursing at Saginaw State University and a nurse in Vietnam in the 1960's.

She shared many pictures with us and told about her experiences of being a nurse in Vietnam. She shared the reasons why she went, and how she felt while she was there. She went to heal the wounded and serve her country. She was glad that she went. She was 23 years old when she arrived in Vietnam. Her nursing skills were enhanced as she treated the critically wounded soldiers.

When the nurses landed in the Tan Son Nhut Airport, they were taken to the 36th Evacuation Hospital. This area was safe most of the time. There was a market and a restaurant near the hospital. One guard watched the compound.

The hospital staff treated U.S., Australian, North and South Vietnamese patients. Other nurses went to fishing villages to treat Vietnamese citizens. Some nurses died while traveling with a team in a helicopter crash.

There were 400 beds with 50 to a ward, 60 RNS, with 8-12 days shifts: 12 days on, 2 days off. There were different kinds of hospitals in Vietnam: Surgical, Evacuation, Field, and Convalescent hospitals.

Soldiers depended on nurses especially for moral support when severely injured. Some were infected with malaria, meningitis, other infectious diseases, or were subjected to insects eating dead tissue. There were also booby traps which seriously injured some soldiers.

Everyone faced environmental challenges with extremely high temperatures, insects, the spraying of agent orange, and other chemicals.

Everyone appreciated Dr. Flatt's presentation because it was a personal account from an actual nurse who served in Vietnam. We had a better understanding of what she

experienced and could see pictures of soldiers whom she took care of. She ended her speech by encouraging us to visit the Vietnam memorial in Washington D.C.

Jackie ended the meeting by reminding us to sign up for the State and International Conventions and that our DKG Birthday dinner is in May. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully,
Linda Dobrzeniecki Co-Recording Secretary