

A Brief History of Cecile E. Kopecky



Cecile E. Kopecky was born on December 27, 1919 in Cainseville, Missouri. She passed away on January 16, 1998, at Heritage House, Atlantic, Iowa. She was the daughter of Frank and Zeta (Frost) Kopecky. Her mother, Zeta Frost Kopecky, was originally from Atlantic, Iowa. Her parents became divorced when Cecile was about one year old and her mother moved back to Atlantic. Cecile lived with her mother and her grandparents. Her grandmother was custodian at the Courthouse and her mother cleaned homes.

Cecile went to Atlantic School System and graduated from Atlantic High School in 1937. While in school, she was active in instrumental groups and the Rainbow Girls. She went to the University of Iowa in Iowa City and received a nursing degree. She worked for four years after graduation in surgical wards at the University Hospital. She enlisted in the United States Navy Nursing Corps on May 3, 1945. She stayed in the Navy for 20 years during which time she did postgraduate study and received a baccalaureate degree in Obstetrical Nursing at Margaret Hayne Maternity Hospital in Jersey City, New Jersey. She also taught nursing education at Syracuse University in New York.

While in the Navy, Ms. Kopecky was stationed at several U.S. Naval Hospitals in the Midwest and on the East Coast. She also served in the Far East spending two years in Japan. Ms. Kopecky retired from the Navy in June 1965 and returned to Iowa City where she worked for 5 and a half years in the Health Occupations Educational program at the University of Iowa. She returned to Atlantic in 1971.

Ms. Kopecky was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was an avid bridge player, and loved animals, especially dogs.

She bequeathed a portion of her estate to the Atlantic Community School Foundation and designated that it was to be used for the purpose of promoting nursing education. The Atlantic Community School Foundation has established an endowment fund to provide for nursing scholarships in memory of Cecile E. Kopecky.