Special Event Notice
June 7, 2011

102-Year-Old Army Nurse
To Present Memorabilia

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation will host 102-year-old Army nurse Hilda Cann on June 9 as she visits the Women’s Memorial. Mrs. Cann, a Canadian citizen who served with the US Army Nurse Corps in World War II, is traveling from Kelowna, British Columbia, to present the Women’s Memorial Foundation with memorabilia from her service.

1st Lt. Hilda Cann was a surgical nurse with the 155th General Hospital in England during World War II. One of her patients, a gunner on a bomber, had been hit in the chest and paralyzed from the waist down. His dying wish was for Lt. Cann to tell his wife that he loved her. Cann kept her promise, traveling directly to Cincinnati from the port of New York when she returned from overseas. So grateful was the young wife, who had an infant child, she later sent a linen tablecloth to Cann. The two corresponded for a few years but lost touch. The tablecloth, however, has remained a treasured gift for more than 65 years. On her 100th birthday, Cann asked her son to help her return the tablecloth to the American people. This visit to the Women’s Memorial fulfills that request.

A formal ceremony marking the return of the memento will be held at 11:00 AM, Thursday, June 9, 2011, in the Women’s Memorial exhibit gallery. In addition to Mrs. Cann, representatives from the Canadian Embassy Attaché office as well as members of the Canadian Pipe and Drum Corps will participate.

The event is free and open to the public. Media interested in covering the event should contact the Women’s Memorial Foundation Public Relations office using the above listed contact information.

The Women’s Memorial, located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, is on the METRO Blue Line, Arlington Cemetery stop, and paid parking at the Arlington Cemetery Visitor Lot is available. If using a GPS device, use the “Landmark” feature with Arlington National Cemetery.

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