



Major Catherine Marie Bender, USA (Retired)

Major Catherine Marie Bender, USA (Retired), 91, of Willow Valley Retirement Community, Willow Street, PA and formerly of Malvern, PA, died Monday, Sept. 8, 2008 at Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster, PA. Born in Germantown, Philadelphia, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Charles H. and Henrietta A. Schwehm Bender.

A graduate of Green Street Friends School in Germantown, Class of 1930, Catherine earned her B.S. from Temple University, Class of 1938, and her M.S. in Education from Temple University, Class of 1941. She taught elementary health and physical education in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, before enlisting in the US Army in 1944. After receiving her commission in 1945, Catherine served stateside and overseas in the Philippines, Japan, Korea and Germany, before retiring as a major in 1965. She became a physical therapist in the Army after completing Physical Therapy School at Walter Reed Hospital. Her most notable patient was General Dwight David Eisenhower. Catherine served as Chief Physical Therapist at Tokyo Army Hospital from 1950-1951. After retiring from the Army, she earned her school counselor certificate from Villanova University and then taught in the Delaware County School District.

Her life memberships included the Bernhard F. Schlegel American Legion Post #134, West Chester, PA, the Valley Forge Chapter of the Retired Officers Association and the Great Valley Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Catherine also belonged to the National Health and Physical Therapy Association, and she was listed in the Who's Who in American Women, 7th and 8th Editions, 1972-1975.

Surviving Catherine are her nieces and nephews, The Honorable Richard B. Abell of Alexandria, VA, Stephen G. Abell of Chester Springs, PA, Constance Abell Baranzano of St. Davids, PA, Henry S. Bender, Jr. of Ocean City, NJ and Jeanne A. Lowe of Charlotte, NC. Her brothers, Henry S. Bender, D.D.S. and SGT John Eichelberger Bender, and sisters, Charlotte A. Abell and Mary Ann Hogarth, preceded Catherine in death.

VIEWING: Friday, Sept. 12th, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at Bachman Funeral Home, 7 S. Decatur St., Strasburg, PA 17579. FUNERAL: Friday at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home, with The Rev. Dr. Louis Palmieri officiating. Military Honors will be accorded by the Red Rose Veterans Honor Guard. Interment will take place in Hillside Cemetery, Roslyn, PA. Following Catherine's request, please omit flowers.
www.bachmanfuneral.com