



### **Colonel Marie Kehrer**

Colonel Marie Kehrer was born on September 12, 1915 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and graduated from Minnesota State Teachers College in Mankato in 1939.

She joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps on July 30, 1942. She attended the WAAC Officer Candidate School Class # 4 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa and was commissioned upon graduation on October 3, 1942.

During World war II she served as an instructor at Fort Des Moines and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and served in the Pacific Theater before and during the Korean War as an Intelligence Officer.

Colonel Kahrer did post graduate work at the University of Minnesota, graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College in 1961 and later attended the Department of Defense Management Course. She served as a Military Congressional Liaison Officer with the Army Material Command, and as a staff officer on the Army General Staff in the Pentagon.

From October 1962 to June 1964, she was the WAC Staff Advisor for the U.S. Army in Heidelberg Germany. She then served as Assistant Commandant of the WAC School at Fort McClellan, Alabama from June 20, 1964 to June 23, 1966.

She was one of six WACs selected for promotion to Colonel after a 1967 amendment to the Women's Armed Service Integration Act (Public Law 90-30) removed the cap on rank and

total number of women allowed in uniform. Kahrer served as Deputy to the WAC Director from August 1, 1967 until her retirement on January 31, 1971.

Colonel Kehrer was active in raising funds, building and equipping the Women's Army Corps Museum. For thirty years she served as a member of the Board of Directors of the WAC and Army Women's Museum Foundations.

Her military awards include the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal WW II Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Korean Service Medal.

She died on September 15, 2006 and was buried in Bay Pines National Cemetery in Florida.