

War Era Story Project 2012

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Current home town: Dayton, Ohio
Age: Not given

Our story begins in the first grade, when my husband, Don, and I were classmates. Then in October of 1941, my church sponsored a hayride. I had dated a lot in high school, strictly with friends. My guy didn't date at all! He was the eldest of five children when his father died, and he helped his mother a lot as she needed to go to work. He played varsity football, basketball and baseball also, so there wasn't much time.

Don said he would buy a ticket and go on the hayride if I would go with him. I was dating a guy from our church at the time and he "assumed" I would go with him, but he hadn't asked me yet, so I said "yes" to Don. He bent down (he was 6' 4" tall) to kiss me goodnight. I fell for him & knew this was the one I wanted to spend my life with.

We dated all the rest of our senior year and then we went our separate ways – he to work at GE, and me to nurse training. In February of 1943, he went into the Navy aboard the aircraft carrier, the *USS Monterey*, he continued to play basketball with the athletic director, Gerald Ford, who later became President. They were in a 75-foot typhoon in which many sailors lost their lives.

I joined the Cadet Nurse Corps six months before I graduated. On Don's 30-day leave, we were married (with permission). He went back to the South Pacific to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, etc. on the hospital ship, *USS Sanctuary*. After the war was over, he went to Purdue University with the help of the GI Bill. We have two daughters and had 62 ½ years together. He passed away on Sept. 2, 2007. I will miss that wonderful man I had the honor of being married to all the day of whatever time I have left.