

Obituary:

FRANCES MAY (CHANEY) CONNOLLY

September 7, 1921 - May 9, 2001

Frances May (Chaney) Connolly, who had attended the year 2000 Anderson Family Reunion, died at Twin Cities Hospital, Fort Walton Beach, Florida, May 9, 2001. She had attended the Family Reunion with two of her sisters, Phyllis Chaney Murphy and Hilda Chaney Morlan. She was 79.

She was born September 7, 1921, in Baltimore, Maryland, to the late **Allen and Minnie (Phillips) Chaney**. She was thus a granddaughter of the late **Alfred Ringold** and **Virginia (Brown) Chaney**. Alfred R. Chaney was a son of **Isaac** and **Elizabeth (Anderson) Chaney**, of Waugh Chapel in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Alfred R. Chaney acquired and farmed for many years one of the few large farms which, between them, "made up" the so-called "Crofton triangle" near Priest's Bridge (location today of the core sections of the Crofton residential subdivisions).

Frances graduated from the University of Virginia School of Nursing with honors and joined the Cadet Nurse Corps while in training. To fulfill her commitment, served with IVNA from July 1, 1944, to April 1, 1945.

She was inducted into the Army and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in April, 1945. After completing her basic course at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, Frances served at only one Army Hospital in the United States before being assigned overseas to Saipan. After completing a course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and training at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, the group of Army nurses of whom Frances was part were transported overseas on an old Army Hospital Ship, the *St. Miheal* - the same ship that had transported her Father back home after World War I.

This overseas trip to Saipan and Okinawa - where Frances was assigned to the 9th General Hospital - meant a lot to Frances, because she had the opportunity to visit the grave site of Ernie Pyle, who had been a friend of Frances's brother, James ("Jim") Chaney, a newspaper reporter.

In 1948, Frances and Army Master Sergeant **James E. Connolly** were married, and Frances accompanied her husband to every one of his duty assignments, which included the Philippine Islands, Korea, Greece, and other overseas assignments. While stationed in Korea, Frances was a night nurse at the Seoul Military Hospital. Upon returning to the States she was a school nurse wherever the family was assigned until 1985.

Frances was past president of the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center Volunteer Hospital Auxiliary, She was also vice president of the Fort Walton Chapter of the Gold Star Wives and was involved in many civic activities.

Frances was preceded in death by her husband, James E. Connolly, in 1986; and two brothers, **James A.** and **Harold P. Chaney**. Survivors include her son, **James A. Connolly**, of Fort Walton Beach; daughter, **Patricia Connolly Powell**, of Niceville, Florida; brother, **Alfred Chaney, II**, of Kilmarnock, Virginia; sisters, **Phyllis Murphy** and husband, **Francis**, of Highland Falls, New York, **Ruth Crowthers**, of Kilmarnock, and **Hilda Morlan**, of Richmond, Virginia; granddaughter, **Jamie Connolly**, of Fort Walton Beach; grandsons, **Mac** and **Kelly Powell** of Niceville; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were conducted at the First United Methodist Church of Niceville, and interment was at the Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida.