

KARREN E. MUNDELL

VIETNAM CORRESPONDENCE, 1966-1967

Collection #:
M 700

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Chris Harter
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: 1966-1967

PROVENANCE: Eric Mundell, Indianapolis, IN, 17 October 1997

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: SC 2309, New Politics Party Campaign Materials; M 134, Vance Hartke Papers; see card catalog under: Vietnamese Conflict

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 1998.0032

NOTES: Material was collected by Eric Mundell, IHS head of reference, in conjunction with an Indiana Historical Society Staff Grant, awarded in June 1993.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Karren Ellen (Mundell) Kowalski (b. 1943 as Karen E. Mundell), a resident of Castle Rock, Colorado, is the daughter of Jacob M. Mundell (b. 1922) of Lafayette, Indiana, and Virginia L. (Long) Mundell (b. 1921) of Frankfort, Indiana. She graduated from Frankfort High School in 1961, and began studies at Indiana University in August of that year. Accepted into the School of Nursing, she studied at the Indianapolis campus, where the medical program was centered, and graduated from I.U. with a bachelor's in nursing in 1965. After briefly working labor and delivery at I.U. Medical Center in Indianapolis, she entered the Army Nurse Corps and began basic training in April 1966. She was married to Dr. Michael Benne in 1963; divorced in 1965. Karren Mundell was the first woman in the Army Nurse Corps from Indiana to ask for direct assignment to Vietnam, where she served for one year (1966-67).

After Vietnam, she served two years in Landstuhl, Germany, where she met and married Walter A. Kowalski, also a Vietnam veteran, in May 1968. They have two sons: Kyle A. (b. 1973) and Devin M. (b. 1979). The Kowalskis returned to the United States in July 1969 and located in Denver, where Karren went on to continue her studies and work in the nursing profession. She is a nationally known speaker and author.

Sources: Material in collection accession file.
Information provided by donor.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of approximately 90 letters written by Karren E. Mundell to her parents, Jacob and Virginia Mundell, while Karren served as an army nurse in Vietnam (1966-1967). Early letters are from the time of her basic training at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas. The majority of the correspondence was written while Karren was a nurse in the intensive care recovery ward at the base hospital at Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam. It documents her daily activities and those at the hospital. She also gives her impressions of the Vietnamese people, the American soldiers at Bien Hoa, and the conflict around her.

The correspondence is arranged chronologically, and is followed by typescripts of the letters.

FOLDER LISTING

FOLDER CONTENTS

1. 1966, April-May
 2. 1966, June-July
 3. 1966, August-September
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 7. 1967, March
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 10. Typescripts, 1966
 11. Typescripts, 1967
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CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Kowalski, Karren

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Kowalski, Karren

United States. Army Nurse Corps

Military nursing--Vietnam

Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975--Personal narratives, American

Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975--United States--Participation, Female

Bien Hoa (Vietnam)-- History--Sources

END