



Annie Beckman

Southwest Middle School, 7th grade
Honorable Mention

Wignuke Waste' Win, Marcella LeBeau

A life full of education, determination, and purposefulness. Even when things got tough, she never gave up and stuck with what she knew was right. Marcella LeBeau took great opportunities and chances after taking advice a doctor gave her; see the world. Marcella's accomplishments are very impressive.

With a very rough life growing up she was not any less determined to be successful in life, even though it was quite hard to concentrate with the things she had to go through. Marcella LeBeau was born in 1919 in Province, SD. Her mother passed away when Marcella was 10 and her father took care of Marcella and her siblings.

Marcella and her sister were best friends, they slept upstairs together while her father and brothers slept downstairs.

Marcella's dream of being a nurse came true through hard work. But more was to come that no one expected. Marcella and her friend Marie, who went through training and college with her, were working at a hospital in Fort Thompson. One day a young doctor went up to them and told them to go out and see the world because of their young age and amazing education. Eventually Marcella and Marie moved to a hospital in Pontiac, Michigan where they got paid \$140 a month. Everyday Marcella and Marie heard on the radio that Army nurses were needed, they jumped at an opportunity once again and a new journey had begun. Sadly, Marcella and Marie had to go separate ways to the opposite sides of the country.

Marcella joined the Army in 1943 as a nurse, her ability as a surgical nurse was so impressive little training was needed. Her first assignment was at the psychiatric ward in Llandudno, Wales. She was in England when D-Day happened. It was a very frightening time and Marcella will never forget the horrific injuries she encountered.

Everyone had to stay put unless ordered otherwise because of landmines. Eventually she wanted to be changed from the psychiatric board to a surgical board.

Marcella, also known as Wignuke Waste' Win, which means Pretty Rainbow Woman, banned smoking in several Native-American and Indian tribes. The Cheyenne River Indian Reservation became the first smoke-free community in South Dakota. She retired as the director of Nursing of the Indian Health Services. She contributed eight decades to the health and wellbeing of diverse populations in South Dakota and in World War II. Marcella was elected to her local tribal council and while she was on the council, she made several changes to the health rules of the tribe. Marcella was

inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame and received the Women in History Award in 2016 from the Spirit of the Prairie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Marcella's numerous accomplishments, raising eight children, and her tireless work advocating for Veterans and Lakota culture and language make her one of South Dakota's most inspirational voices.