

## Impact Statement

Mia McDowell, Grade 7

***A woman that changed history*, 2025**

Acrylic, colored pencil, marker, paper, pen, watercolor on paper map, 11 x 14 inches

West Middle School, Byron Center, MI

Unsung Hero: Jane Kendeigh

I chose Jane Kendeigh because she sacrificed her life to help others, even though she was only twenty-two. A strong, independent woman, Jane Kendeigh was born on March 30th, 1922, in Henrietta, Ohio. She graduated from St. Luke's School of Nursing in Cleveland and trained at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois. Jane eventually moved to California to become a flight nurse. She accomplished goals that others could never do. She was a young Flight nurse in World War 2. She provided vital aid to Marines who were wounded. It is very admirable to help others and save people's lives. She changed history by being the first U.S. Navy flight nurse to fly an evacuation mission to an active combat zone. She learned crash procedures, received survival training, and studied the effects of altitude on various types of patients. With all this hard work and training, she saved 2,393 marines. Jane's story inspired me by showing an act of bravery and being an overall role model for all women. She was willing to put her life on the line to help injured Marines and was one of the first women to do so. Even when women were considered weak and weren't able to learn to fly a plane, she was able to defy the odds.

The vision of my artwork was to capture her confidence and determination to help others by creating a portrait of a photo that represented her joy and her success. This piece expresses her heroic acts through the clouds in the background, which represent her talented flying abilities and confidence. The clouds were drawn like mist in the sky and were cut out of thick scratch paper to show the repeated amount of hard work she put in to complete her goal. I chose to draw her joyfully smiling to show how proud she was to be in that position to help others. Her confidence was from being the first woman to be able to fly an evacuation mission. She was able to show an example that anyone can do it.

This piece was a mixed media artwork, so I used many different materials to capture Jane Kendeigh. Some techniques I used were crosshatching, collaging, and layering. I used the technique of crosshatching to make her more defined and bolder. Also, one collage detail I put into the piece was a map of her hometown because she had to gain the ability to read maps to help people. The last technique I used was layering. I used this to show her joy and emotion by defying her features through layering.

The techniques helped me show the lasting impact she had on the world. Her actions influenced me by giving me the determination to reach my goals as an artist. She showed me that as a woman, even when there is still discrimination, I can do anything. She changed the way I saw my goals by showing that there are going to be many obstacles and challenges in my way, but I can still overcome them. She inspires me to look forward and be who I want to be, an artist.