



Impact Statement

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Fight and Flight, 2026

Digital Art

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Unsung Hero: Jane Kendeigh

For my Unsung Hero project, I chose Jane Kendeigh. Kendeigh stuck out to me as she is such a powerful and moving role model to look up to. She impacted and saved countless soldiers' lives as a flight nurse during World War II. A time where that role was still being tested and seen as dangerous. Kendeigh proved to the world that women were more than capable to take on male dominated high pressure labor-intensive jobs. She was so full of courage, compassion and determination for her job especially during a time where women were left with very few opportunities. And as a young girl, living in a world where women are still constantly being looked down on and discriminated against, reading her story feels empowering. Seeing what she was able to accomplish with little to no fear in a time where women were left with almost no resources to prove themselves worthy, makes me more confident for how I will be viewed in my own future.

Kendeigh left a large impact on not only the soldiers and their family whom she saved, but also the future of our Navy's technology. Kendeigh was first U.S Navy Flight nurse in an active combat zone serving in Iwo Jima under intense pressure and harsh working conditions. Her dedication, and knowledge paved a path for advancements and improved military medical evacuations—allowing severely injured soldiers to be safe and quickly transported over long distances to the proper medical help they need. Without her bravery and risk-taking, medical evacuation may not have developed as quickly as it did. Meaning many of the soldiers who fought for their lives may not have survived. In addition to her medical impact, she also changed the perspective our society viewed women. She proved women to be just as capable as men. And because of her contributions and determination, flight nursing is often looked up to and praised for the nurse's hard work and dedication to our nation's security.

For my art piece, I included a portrait of Kendeigh and Navy WW II plane behind her, allowing the viewer to better understand the importance of her role. The plane is to show not only her job as a flight nurse, but also her innovation and risk taken when it comes to transporting patients through the air. I added yellow rays around the plane highlighting its importance. Light also symbolizes hope and knowledge. Showing her job and her determination was the light in such a dark time for women. Following the plane is a red flight map. Leading the viewers' eyes from the plane, to Kendeigh, to a newspaper article of Kendeigh circling the word "nurse" to emphasize her job and lastly landing on a photo of her with a marking of a red cross over her heart—which is a symbol for protection, hope, and humanity. Showing her care for human well-being. For the

background I included a collage of old newspaper articles and photos of Kendeigh doing her job. These highlight the true importance Kendeigh had on history and how notable she was.

Learning about Jane Kendeigh made me realize how so many people have life altering powerful things, yet rarely ever get recognized for it. When doing my research i asked 6 friends "Have you heard the name Jane Kendeigh before?" And every single person said they had no idea who that is. This showed me how important contests like these are, and how impactful artwork can have on knowledge. My goal for my artwork is to bring more attention to her name.

Kendeigh's story has inspired me and allowed me to have a more positive and confident outlook on my future. And I strongly believe the more her story and other powerful women in history's stories are heard. Girls my age will feel determined to follow their dreams and not worry about how society will treat them.