

**Dr. Ruth Cole**

October 15, 1920 – November 6, 2014

A Calloway County native, Ruth Cole answered the call to serve during WWII and the Korean Conflict, retiring as a Navy Captain after 35 years in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. She held degrees from the University of Texas, Columbia University, and Indiana University.

Cole helped launch Murray State's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in 1964 and later assisted Harding University in preparing its nursing school for accreditation. She served on Kentucky's Board of Nursing and Health Planning Council, was named Nurse Educator of the Year in 1977, and became a Kentucky Colonel in 1982.

She established the Hospice Program at Murray-Calloway County Hospital and was honored with the Pioneer Award and Hall of Fame for her contributions to nursing. In 2008, she published *Memories, Stories, and Places of Calloway County and Graves County*, preserving local history through personal recollections and interviews.