

**In Memory of
Mildred “Millie” Emerson Frye
~ 1924-2023 ~**

FREMONT’S LAST NATIVE WORLD WAR II VETERAN

It is with great sadness Fremont lost its last native Veteran of World War II on February 27, 2023. Millie, aged 98, was born on June 13, 1924, the daughter of Freeman & Norine (Clement) Emerson.



Her father was a World War I Veteran and is believed to have been the last surviving Fremont Veteran of that war when he died on January 28, 1988 at age 92. Her mother Norine, born December 8, 1900 lived to be 100 years old and had the distinction of living in THREE centuries before dying on March 13, 2001, and was a Fremont Boston Post Cane Holder for several years. Millie’s aunt & namesake, Mildred (Emerson) Hall (1898-2002) lived to be 103 years old and was also the Raymond, NH Boston Post Cane holder.

Millie graduated from Sanborn Seminary in Kingston in 1942 and afterwards attended hairdressing school. In 1944 she joined the Navy as a WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). She was only 20 years old and required permission from her parents to sign up which they gave largely due to her father’s devotion to preserving American ideals and freedom during WWI. Because Millie was under five feet tall, she had to have the height requirement waived too. As a result, she was often teased about being a “Ripple” instead of a WAVE! She took the teasing in her usual good natured, cheerful manner.

Millie was stationed at Norfolk, Virginia where the military assigned her to work as a hair dresser for the officer’s wives. She said “NO” to that because she wanted to do something meaningful for the war effort. She was reassigned to the Ordinance Department keeping track of bombs coming in and off the base. She served until the end of the war in 1946. She was one of two female WWII veterans from Fremont - the other being Charlotte Grey.

Millie married Ellsworth Webster Frye and together they raised four very devoted children. They spent many years living in North Hampton, NH & Riverview, Florida before returning to New Hampshire. Millie resided the last five years at the Rockingham County Assisted Living Facility in Brentwood always smiling and being cheerful and welcoming to everyone she met.

Between Millie and her father, this patriotic family diligently attended EVERY annual Fremont Memorial Day Observance for 99 years until the Covid-Pandemic put a stop to that in 2020 - the same year that would mark the 100th anniversary of the Emerson Family participating in Fremont Memorial Day observances!

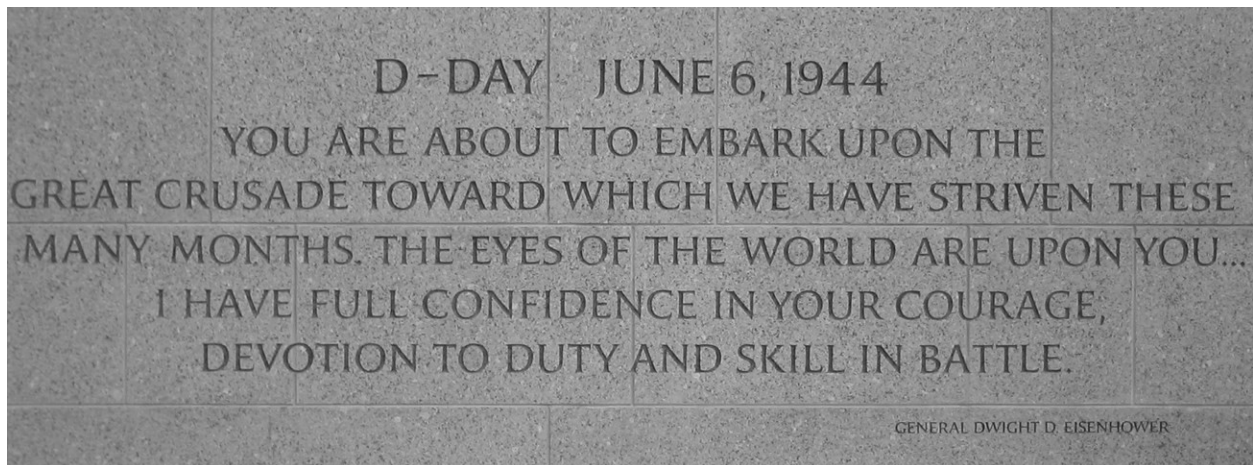
Our town THANKS YOU MILLIE for
yours, and all other
Emerson/Clement/Frye Family
members, who bravely fought and
supported our nation in wars dating
back to the Civil War.

Millie in her Navy WAVES uniform

Photo courtesy of Nancy Bergeron



Compiled by: Matthew E. Thomas, Fremont Town Historian



~ General Dwight D Eisenhower