

Louise Nixon
Northeast Regional Chair



Louise Jerline Nixon is the daughter of the late Gilbert and Eleanor Nixon. She grew up in Deer Park, New York, and received her formal education through the Deer Park School system, graduating from Deer Park High School. Ms. Nixon is a graduate of Pilgrim Psychiatric Center School of Nursing, Brentwood, NY. She also received her AAS degree from Suffolk County Community College, Selden, NY. She then later obtained a Bachelors Degree in Nursing from The College of Mount St. Vincent, Riverdale, NY and a Master's Degree in Health Service's Administration from Central Michigan University, distant learning center located at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, NY.

Petite in stature and feisty in spirit, Major Nixon found her "activist voice" while in high school. She organized student awareness for the need of a Black Studies program. The students finally achieved this goal in their senior year of high school. That same year, she was crowned Queen of the Deer Park/Wyandanch Branch of the NAACP Autumn Leaves Cotillion. It was the first year that all of the debutants wore Afrocentric attire. During her nursing studies, then Governor, Hugh Carey determined as a cost-saving measure, to close all New York State funded nursing programs. Again, Major Nixon raised her voice and rallied with many nursing students across New York State. They traveled to Albany and made a successful plea to state officials the importance of continuing state-funded nursing education programs. The program remained in place for the next five years.

As a new registered nurse, Major Nixon's first job was at U.S. Public Health Hospital, Staten Island, New York. Five years later the hospital was sold and renamed Bayley Seton Hospital. While employed there for 24 years, she held various nursing and administrative positions and continued to do so after merging with what was formerly known as St. Vincent's Medical Center, Staten Island, NY. Always striving for nursing excellence, Major Nixon became active in the inception of the Richmond County Nurses Association as Bayley Seton Hospital's first chapter president.

In 1987 Ms. Nixon joined the United States Army Reserve, Army Nurse Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant. Her first assignment was with the 307 General Hospital on Varick Street in New York City. She was reassigned to the 343rd Evac Hospital, which later became the

343rd Combat Support Hospital. Due to her extensive background in critical care nursing, she became the Assistant Officer in Charge of the Emergency Medical Treatment section. While there, she became involved in training enlisted soldiers as medics and LPN's. In 1990 her first group of students were deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. 2nd Lieutenant Nixon continued her military education and became the unit's HIV/Infectious Disease Coordinator, Training Counsel Member and the Officer in Charge of the Phlebotomy Training program at the Brooklyn VA Hospital. Due to the deactivation of the 343rd Combat Support Hospital, 1st Lieutenant Nixon was transferred to the 344th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Totten, NY. Her assignment at Fort Totten's Medical Evaluation Facility entailed providing Army required physicals as well as training enlisted soldiers in all aspects of their Military Occupational Skills related to the healthcare arena. She remained active in military medical training by joining the 8th Medical Brigade's 91W Sustainment/ Transition Training Program at Fort Dix, NJ as an instructor. As a captain, she assumed the position as Deputy Director of the 91W Refresher Course program until her deployment to Iraq in March 2005. She was promoted to the rank of Major before leaving Fort McCoy, Wisconsin for Iraq. While in Iraq, Major Nixon was assigned to the Intermediate Care Ward at Abu Ghraib Prison Hospital and functioned in the capacity as the Assistant Officer in Charge. She took on additional duties such as developing protocols for an Outpatient Surgical Clinic, clinical safety officer and designed, implemented and analyzed wound care management. Major Nixon remained at Abu Ghraib for seven months and later was transferred to Camp Bucca in southern Iraq for five months as a senior officer in a supervisory capacity.

In 2009 she accepted the challenge as the Officer in Charge at the Army's Trauma Training Program located at Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, NY. While there she assisted in training the 452nd Combat Support Hospital for their deployment to Afghanistan. Major Nixon retired from the United States Army Reserve in April 2011.

Major (Ret.) Nixon taught at the College of Staten Island's Workforce Development Program for Certified Nursing Assistants.

Major Nixon is a member of St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, NJ

As a healthcare professional and Army veteran with many years of comprehensive nursing, management and operations experience, Major (Ret.) Louise Nixon can truly say she has practiced and enjoyed the Art of Nursing.

"Always take risks and be the change you want to see."