

# Chief, Physical Therapist Message

*LTC Theresa Schneider*  
*Chief, Physical Therapist Section*

LTC (Ret) Agnes Snyder passed away last week.

Do you know who Agnes Snyder was? Like many of you, I didn't, and that's a shame.

LTC (Ret) Snyder played an important role in Army Physical Therapy, as well as the profession of Physical Therapy. She served as an instructor at the Walter Reed General Hospital Physical Therapy Training Program in the 1930's, and was instrumental in keeping the program going during the Great Depression. She later served as the Director of the Army Physical Therapy Program at Fort Sam Houston – twice, first, from 1949-1953 and then from 1958-1960. In between tours as Program Director, LTC (Ret) Snyder served as the Chief, Physical Therapist Section, Office of the Surgeon General, from 1954-1958. Nationally, she served as the speaker of the House of Delegates of the American Physical Therapy Association from 1956-1958, and was elected president of the APTA in 1958, performing the duties of president concurrently with those of Chief, PT and then Program Director. Upon retirement from the Army, Agnes returned to the educational arena, serving as the Director of the State University of New York's Physical Therapy Program for a number of years.

In the words of another of my predecessors, COL (Ret) Metcalf, "LTC Snyder was a wonderful woman and an impressive, historical figure in our profession. We all owe her a great deal for her many contributions to the physical therapy profession, to physical therapy education, and to the U.S. Army."

On behalf of this generation of Army Physical Therapists, I want to say thank you to all those who came before us, especially LTC (Ret) Snyder, for providing the foundation that has enabled us to be who we are today.