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Minnie Vautrin Day in Missouri

As related by Walter Ko
of St. Louis, MO.

A "Minnie Vautrin Day - 27 September 2004" Resolution was adopted in the House of Representatives of the Missouri Legislature on May 28, 2004. Signed by the Speaker of the House, Catherine L. Hanaway, 92nd General Assembly, 2nd Regular Session, House Resolution #3269 simply commemorates Minnie Vautrin of Secor, Illinois risked her own life to protect more than 10,000 helpless Chinese women from rape and murder by the invading Japanese army during the 6-8 weeks of terror right after the fall of Nanking (Nanjing) on 13 December 1937. Her courage of facing up to Japanese army with bayonets has been forever engraved in the minds of those victims and their descendants almost 67 years after the crime against humanity, now known as the "Rape of Nanking" or simply the Nanjing Massacre.

Minnie Vautrin was born on 27 September 1886, and went to China in 1912 as an American missionary and educator. She served 20 years on the faculty at Ginling College in Nanking. She was in Nanking doing the relief work for the girl refugees when the occupying Japanese army in Nanking began their wanton atrocities. She died on 14 May 1941 in the United States at the age of 54.

For an 8-week period during the Nanjing massacre, Japanese army with the approval of their high command murdered nearly 350,000 Chinese civilians under the guise of searching for rebels resisting Japanese occupation. To this day, the post-WWII Japanese government still refuse to admit and apologize for the now well-established historical war crime with the eyewitness evidence secured by a German Nazi named John Rabe and many American missionaries including Minnie Vautrin.

For more details of the Rape of Nanking or Nanjing Massacre, read the following references:

1. Tzy C. Peng, "Minnie Vautrin - A True Humanitarian", *Chinese American Forum*, April, 2000, pp. 15-18.
2. Hua-ling Hu, *American Goddess at the Rape of Nanking, The Courage of Minnie Vautrin*, Southern Illinois University Press (2000), 185 pages, ISBN 0-8093-2303-6.
3. Iris Chang, *Rape of Nanking, the Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*, HarperCollins, New York, NY (1997), 290 pages, ISBN: 0-465-06835-9
4. Shi Young and James Yin, *The Rape of Nanking, An Undeniable History in Photographs*, Innovative Publishing Group, the 2nd ed, Chicago & San Francisco, USA (1997), 328 pages. ISBN: 0-9632231-6-X, in Chinese and English