

"We learned that women can do more than we had done before, and we did excellent work."

Neva Rees, who helped build the Goodyear blimp in Akron during World War II

Photo: Office of War Information



Rosie the Riveter FACTS

"Rosie the Riveter" means millions of women, not one woman.

During World War II, the number of women who worked for the war effort at home was as great as the number of men in the military. Most have died, but you can find living Rosies and learn much from them.

Rosies did much more than rivet airplanes.

They worked for factories, farms, ship builders, and the government.

Their major goal was to "bring our boys home."

Rosies did highest-quality work to save lives and end the war.

Many women travelled far from their homes to work.

They often went from towns and farms to factories in big cities.

Women of all ages and types were Rosies.

Rosies who are still alive were teens or young women during the war.

Most women lost their jobs at the end of the war.

Men needed jobs, and the need to make weapons was over, so women workers weren't needed. Yet, Rosies often cared for wounded vets, were secretaries or teachers, and taught their daughters to be independent.

Today. Most Rosies are in their 90s. They are very important to understanding 1) the fuller story of World War II, 2) women's strengths, and 3) how people can pull together again.

Rosies will be gone soon. Help us show what Rosies have done and are doing again.

By following their example, you help people pull together to do quality work.

What You Can Do with Rosies, for Rosies' to Impact America for the good of all today and into the future:

1. Look for Rosies and help interview them:

- A. Ask your family what your grandmothers and great aunts did during World War II.
- B. Ask Rosie groups (e.g. "Thanks!") and senior centers if they know Rosies near you.
- C. Be present when Rosies are interviewed and help get copies of interviews to others.

2. Complete a project to know and honor Rosies

Examples of organizations and people who might help are: American Legion, Girl Scouts of America, historic societies, civic groups (e.g. Lions Clubs), teachers and professors, mayors.
Examples of projects are: get musicians to perform or write Rosie music; name a room "The Rosie the Riveter Room"; plant a dogwood tree and know why Rosies chose this tree to represent their work; help a public place near you to make a permanent Rosie photo display.

3. Show documentary films to students, civic groups and senior centers

"Thanks!" can send you a film called "We pull better when we pull together": Rosie the Riveters then and Now" if you cannot find living Rosies to learn from.

THANKS! Plain and Simple, Inc.

Creating and sharing ways to do work that needs to be done in "the free world."

The Rosie the Riveter Project shows, "We can do it, and we will, together!"

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Show pride as you work with Rosies. Do good quality work *with* Rosies and show people what you and Rosies have done together.

Why are Rosie the Riveters Important?

1. America promises that women are equal. It's important to ask Rosies what they did and to tell them how important their work was.
2. Rosies are a model for women and girls – women can do much more than they imagined, and do excellent work. Rosies show us that we should try new things and do good work.
3. Rosies show that women's strengths are important to society.
4. Rosies reveal fuller understanding and facts about:
 - A. World War II
 - B. The Women's Movement
 - C. The problems of caring for injured veterans
 - D. The value of older persons
 - E. How to pull together to achieve needed, common good
5. Girls and young women learn about women's strengths first-hand from Rosies.
6. Rosies help us all see that many people who contribute are not loud about it – that many women have worked quietly behind-the-scenes to advance and heal.
7. Rosies are dying – we have a very short time to know them, learn from them, and work with them to teach the future about their importance.

Why “The Rosie the Riveters Movement” Is Important?

1. Rosies prove that people can pull together to do quality work for the world.
2. People need to pull together to leave lasting evidence of work for freedom.
3. Many people can know, work with, and educate with Rosies.
3. The world is facing problems that impact us all, and we must learn how to work together to solve them.
4. Women are able to contribute, and Rosies are excellent examples.
5. It's time for a “movement” that benefits society by showing people how to work together, not just how to protest together by taking sides.

“Of course women can do it. We've shown that.

The word “can” has two meaning – “We have the ability” and “Will you allow us to do it?”

The question is, “Will you allow us Rosies to contribute what we can do and want to do?”

Nancy Sipple, who inspected airplane parts in Cincinnati

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