

The weekend of August 14-15, 2015 marked 70 years since V-J (Victory Over Japan) Day—that is, the day when the long years of World War II fighting ceased. Though the actual signing of the treaty would not take place until September 2, most people who lived through that time remember August 14-15 as the real time of celebration. Fighting in the European Theater had already ceased with V-E (Victory in Europe) Day, May 8, 1945, and when Japan followed with their surrender in August, the war was virtually over.

Rosie the Riveter's voice is often the first and loudest to thank the veterans for their selfless service. Rosie's job dur-

ing the war was to support the troops and give "the boys" whatever they needed to win the war and come on back home. In retrospect, however, we can see what a valuable contribution the working women of WW II made, as well, and we thank both veterans and Rosies of the Greatest Generation for their parts in preserving our precious freedoms.

In this edition, we will report on the many and varied ways that towns, communities and families across the U. S. have commemorated this extraordinary 70th anniversary with "Rosie Rallies" and more. And oh my, how they celebrated! Rock on, Rosies, you are still doing it! - *Nell Branum, editor*



Stacks of letters— now on their way!

Sharing smiles with the troops!

Many, many thanks to all those who wrote letters to our currently deployed troops! Cards and letters came pouring in from 21 states and from all ages—from ARRA Chapters, school groups, community events, churches, senior facilities, individual Rosies, and others who took the time to write letters. And every single letter, card, and drawing is now making its way to a Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Airman who is currently deployed in the defense of our country.

Operation Gratitude, a non-profit organization based in Van Nuys, California (<u>www.operationgratitude.org</u>), is our partner in getting these letters to the troops. OG sends care packages to troops containing snacks, DVD's and more—and each package contains several letters. And the *letters* are the favorite items in the packages. **Carolyn Blashek**, Founder of Operation Gratitude, sends her thanks to ARRA: "This is so wonderful!!! Thank you for your efforts and enthusiasm and for engaging so many great Americans in this project. There is no doubt you will be creating many, many smiles on our heroes' faces." If you would like to see a video of soldiers' telling how much letters from home mean to them, search YouTube for "Operation Gratitude."

And it's not too late to get in on the joy! We are still working to make our goal, so if you would like to send a card or letter, simply begin with "Dear Hero." Express your thanks for his/her service. Mail to **Rosies Rally 'Round the Troops, P. O. Box #1, Fultondale, AL 35068.** We'll send them on!

Atlanta Remembers

In April, 2015, the Atlanta, GA ARRA Chapter hosted a 70th Anniversary kick-off event with the Spirit of '45 organization when Chancellor Bruce Heilman, a WW II veteran, stopped by on a cross-country motorcycle ride. On August 15, the Chapter sponsored a remembrance event at the Gwinnett County Fallen Heroes Memorial in Lawrenceville. AR-RA National President Jean Ousley and others wore red bandanas and work shirts in honor of Rosies, and 96-year-old Rosie Jessie Moss told how she worked on B-29's at the Bell Bomber factory. The Gwinnett Daily Post was on hand to cover the story.



Colorado Spirit

Rosebuds (and a faithful Rivet) had a great time setting up a booth and walking in the Wheat Ridge, CO Carnation Festival to honor Rosies and veterans. They especially waved at Rosies in the crowd. Rosebud Jo Ann Fisher (right), who organized the event, reports that many people came to them to share their family Rosie stories.



Spreading the Rosie message!

Celebrating with Friends

KS. On Saturday, August

15, 2015, on the occasion

of her 90th birthday,

friends and family mem-

bers gathered to honor

Ruth. Her daughter, Rose-

bud Debbie Yancey, tells

us that they celebrated her

Rosie years, the war end-

Rosie Ruth Mustion of Deer Park, TX was a rural farm girl from Howell County, Missouri when she traded in her hoe for a rivet gun and went to work at Boeing in Wichita,



Rosie Ruth Mustion

ing, and her life until the present. They shared memories and sang favorite songs, and The Pasadena Citizen newspaper carried Ruth's story.

Rosies Rally in Oregon

In July, 2015, Rosies Dolly Marshall, Doris Graham, Rozella Mock, Alice Heiney, Lorette Wedlake, and Opal **Nelson** found seats on hay bales in the back of a pick-up truck for the Bohemia Mining Days Parade in Cottage Grove, OR. Rivet Darrell Willis drove the truck and Rosebuds Yvonne Fasold, Dawn Witteveen, and Dawn's granddaughter, Riley (a Rosebud 3) walked behind. Spectators were enthusiastic!



In August, Rosies and friends from the McKenzie, OR ARRA Chapter joined with the Spirit of '45 organization to celebrate the 70th Anniversary with a tribute, wreath ceremony, a concert by the 234th Army Band, and "The Andrews Sisters."





Rosie Day in New York

The Greene County, NY Department of Human Services

and the county Veterans Service Agency hosted a Rosie the Riveter Day on August 29, 2015 at the Historic Catskill Point and Freightmaster's Building. The event was organized by Tami Bone and in-



spired by Rivet Ed Bloomer. whose mother, Rosie Irene Bloomer, was one of the first five women hired in DeWitt Yard for NY Central Railroad. There was a USO-type show

and dance, a sing-along, a Rosie look-alike contest, exhibits by many military-related organizations, a Doughnut Dolly station, and more—a great community celebration!

Richmond's Rosie Rally



These ladies were

spotted at a rest stop

by Rosebud Yvonne

Fasold's grandson,

as they made their

way from Oregon

to Richmond.

On August 15, 2015, Rosies and Rosie Look-Alikes gathered at the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, CA in a big way! Their goal was to break the existing Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people dressed as Rosie the Riveter, which was 776, set in March, 2014 in Ypsilanti, MI. Partici-

pants of all ages, from age 97 to two months, flocked to Richmond. Thev enjoyed speeches

from the City Manager and park representatives, as well as musical entertainment, the unveiling of a new Rosie sculpture from artist Seward Johnson, and hearing stories from Rosies. And break the record they did! The official record is now 1,084! Congratulations to all!



Rosie Marian Wynn holds a young participant.

Celebrations in Baltimore

The Baltimore, MD ARRA Chapter held a Rosie lookalike event at the Glenn L. Martin Aviation Museum in May, 2015, with attendees from MD, PA, and VA (below). Glenn



Martin was the first industrial employer to hire women for an industrial assembly line, and Rosie Alice Podolsky was the first woman hired by that company in August, 1941. Alice's grandson, Rivet Tom Klein who is a teacher, and his students came dressed as Rosies for the day. Presenting the Rosies and veterans with a special honor was the Comptroller of Maryland Peter Franchot, son of a Rosie and a WWII veteran. The Chapter also attended a Spirit of '45 anniversary event on August 15, 2015 presented by the museum (below). Rosies were



joined by WW II veterans from 90 to 99 years old, including a WASP and a WAVE. And Rosies attended an event on board the SS John Brown Liberty Ship, arriving by limousine. Veterans and Rosies were honored, then given a special performance of "Abbott and Costello." Chapter Coordinator Debi Wynn has created a one-hour musical entitled "Rosie" that was performed in April for the anniversary and is available to travel. The Chapter is also working on a documentary about their Rosies.

Kansas City's Rosies

On July 11, 2015, Rosies were honored at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Kansas City, MO. Eighteen



Rosies (left) were present to meet and answer questions for the standing-room -only crowd, which was

double the museum's usual Saturday attendance. Organized by Rosebud Jody Valet, who is ARRA's National Treasurer,

the event included the premiere of a new documentary entitled We Can Do It: Stories of Rosie the Riveter, which includes interviews with eight local Rosies. The event was hosted by "President Harry S. Truman" (right), and members of the Heart of America Chap-



ter of the Tuskegee Airmen on hand to seat the Rosies. "President Truman" read a proclamation from the Mayor of Independence, MO, and author and documentary director Terence O'Malley spoke. A display gave Rosie information, and a slide show portrayed local Rosies in the 1940's. The Mayor of Kansas City wrote an individual



proclamation to each Rosie, thanking her for her service.

Tribute in Texas

On August 15, 2015, Rosies Deedee Favro of Houston, TX and Pat Golson of San Marcos, TX were honored, along with several WW II veterans, at a Spirit of '45 Celebration. Rosebud Carol Peters of the Central Texas ARRA Chapter reports that the event took place at the San Marcos Airport Commemorative Air Force Hangar, and featured a flyover of WW II planes, tours of the WW II Museum that included a Rosie display, and an ARRA information and book sales booth. The program to honor the Rosies and veterans included State Representative John Cyrier and San Marcos City Councilman and Veterans Affairs Director Jude Prather. More than 1,000 people from around the state attended the event.



Left: Rosies **Deedee** and **Pat** are seated on the front row. along with veteran honorees. Right: Rosie Deedee.



Laurel, MD Chapter Salutes











Starting at top left: 1) Honoring veterans at Harmony Hall; 2) Rosie Wilma Foster with the "Rosie the Riveter Award" at a car show; 3) Rosies Lee Dunklee, Rena Van Buren, Wilma Foster, and Lorraine Miller honoring veterans at Mission BBQ; 4) Keep the Spirit of

'45 Alive at Main Street Festival—Rosies as Grand Marshalls; 5) Wayne and Teresa Barnes and the "Rosie car" salute the troops.

Birmingham, AL Celebrates





Starting at top left: 1) Rosie Fran Carter and Rosebud Gloria Parvin with residents of Brookdale Senior Living Center, at an April, 2015 kickoff ARRA/Spirit of '45 event. 2) In August, 2015, WW II veteran and Rivet Ralph Jones and other Chapter members attended a Spirit of '45 Anniversary event at the Alabama National Cemetery. 3) The Chapter hosted three "Rosies Rally 'Round the Troops" letter-writing tables—at an Honor Flight Reunion, the Southern Museum of Flight's Bombers and Bombshells Ball, and a public library. 4) Rosies Lucy Lewis, Jackie Rumsbacher, Virginia Dyer, Doris Adamson, Mabel Myrick, Jeanne Gibbs, and Cary Moore celebrated at the Chapter's quarterly meeting. 5) Rosebud Sarah Law won the Southern Museum of Flight's "Why Are You a Modern Day Rosie?" Facebook contest.

Two Family Celebrations

In 1945, **Nona McLemore Penner** was riveting airplane bulkheads at Tinker Air Base in Oklahoma. In April, 2015, Nona's family and friends gathered to celebrate her 90th birthday with a Rosie the Riveter theme. On August 29, 2015 at a McLemore family reunion, **Bob McCormick** of the Quilts of Valor organization (www.qovf.org) presented quilts to Nona's brother, cousin, and son-



Nona with her great-grandson, Eric



military service. Nona was expecting this, as she had been working to make it happen. What she *wasn't* expecting was that, in an unusual presentation, a quilt would be given to her, as well!

On August 16, 2015, Bertha and Mary joined with others

at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Dorchester to host a wreathlaying ceremony as part of a Global Tribute happening around the world that week-

Boston Commemorates

On August 11, 2015, Rosie look-alikes gathered for a contest at Battleship Cove and the USS Massachusetts battleship in Fall River, MA. Rosie **Bertha Glavin**, President of the Massachusetts Bay ARRA Chapter, shared her experiences, then served as judge to choose winners in youth and adult categories. Bertha's sister, Rosie **Mary Kennedy**, worked as a welder in Quincy, MA, where the Massachusetts was built.



Rosie **Bertha** with honored veterans

crowd, recalling the celebrations of the war's end and the work of Rosies. WW II veterans shared remembrances.

Sharing the Rosie Legacy

At 17, Rosie Mae Krier of PA was working as a riveter

of B-17's at Boeing in Seattle, WA. On August 15, 2015, Mae celebrated the 70th anniversary of the war's end on board the Battleship *New Jersey* in Camden, with a tour, dinner, and Big Band dance. Many people asked about her Rosie story. Mae is also celebrating by staying busy as an advocate for the Rosie legacy, speaking at a West Point Conference and a local Marines/Police event, participating in an Honor Flight to Washington, D. C., and being featured in an upcoming edition of



Rosie Mae Krier

USA Today. Mae has also been working closely with her Congressman to promote a House of Representatives bill that would proclaim a National Rosie the Riveter Day.

THE ROSIE SHOPPE Order Form



Rosie items ^{make} great gifts!

Share your Rosie spirit! Shop for yourself or someone else!

<u>Quantity</u>	Item (circle size or type where applicable)	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Rosie poster, 20" x 28"	\$20.00	
	Rosie stickers, 3 ¹ / ₂ " x 2 ¹ / ₂ " (package of 5)	\$3.00	
	NEW! Rosie ribbon membership pin	\$20.00	
	Rosie picture post cards, 4" x 6"	\$1.00	
	Rosie note cards with envelopes (package of 10)	\$12.00	
	Rosie afghan/wall hanging, all cotton, 48" x 58"	\$65.00	
	Rosie tote bag, sturdy cotton, 14" x 14" x 3" - small	\$16.00	
	Tote bag, sturdy cotton - "Uncle Sam—I Want You"	\$12.00	
	Rosie T-shirt (circle size) S M L XL	\$20.00	
	Rosie head scarf (triangular shape, long end = 36")	\$10.00	
	Rosie head scarf (3" by 36" rectangle)	\$8.00	
	Rosie counted cross stitch kit (makes picture 71/2" x 10") frame not included	\$17.00	
	Rosie counted cross stitch book mark kit (makes bookmark 3 ¹ / ₄ " x 11")	\$8.00	
	Rosie apron	\$20.00	
	Rosie book mark with gold plate charm, 21/4" x 61/2"	\$7.00	
	Rosie key chain (circle size) - Large-3" x 13/4" OR Small-13/4" x 1 3/8"	\$6.50	
	Rosie metal snack box, 71/4" x 5" x 3"	\$17.00	
	Rosie tin sign, 16" x 12"	\$25.00	
	Rosie refrigerator magnet, 2 ¹ / ₄ " x 3 ¹ / ₄ "	\$6.00	
	Refrigerator magnet - Uncle Sam OR Soldiers Without Guns (specify)	\$4.00	
	Rosie stamp pin, 1 5/8" x 1 3/8"	\$5.00	
	Rosie button, metal, 3" diameter	\$3.00	
	Rosie I. D. "dog tag"	\$8.00	
	Rosie pot holder	\$5.00	
	Book: 103 Rosie the Riveter Stories	\$17.00	
	Book: 104 More Rosie the Riveter Stories	\$17.00	
	Book: Rosie the Riveter Celebration Cookbook	\$20.00	
	Book: Rosie Romances and Other Rosie the Riveter Stories	\$17.00	
	Book: Rosie the Riveter Stories: The Legacy Lives On!	\$17.00	
	SPECIAL - Set of 5 books above (1 of each)	\$83.00	
	SPECIAL - Set of 4 story books (1 each of 103, 104 More, Romances, & Legacy)	\$64.00	
	Picture Book: R is for Rosie the Riveter (hardback)	\$20.00	
	Picture Book: R is for Rosie the Riveter (paperback)	\$15.00	
	SPECIAL-Hardback R is for Rosie sent directly to a library, or several to one Chapter	\$18.00 ea	
	SPECIAL-Paperback R is for Rosie sent directly to a library, or several to one Chapter	\$13.00 ea	

TOTAL ____



Unless otherwise indicated, all products feature the classic "We Can Do It" design used in WW II. Enclose check or money order made payable to ARRA.

Prices include shipping to U.S. addresses. For orders to addresses outside the U.S., add \$10.00 shipping. Send to ARRA Rosie Shoppe, 950 Irving Street, Vandergrift, PA 15690.

______ Telephone (____)_____

Name ____

Address _____

_____ E-mail _____

Honoring a Rosie

During WW II, Rosie **Ina Cordela McAninch** of Wichita Falls, Texas was welding ships in Corpus Christi and sew-



Rosie Ina McAninch with her friend, Rosebud Lynn Saunders

ps in Corpus Christi and sewing uniforms. In August, 2015, 99-year-old Ina was honored for her service at the Brookdale Senior Living Center, where she lives. Ina recently joined ARRA, and friends, family, and members of the Brookdale staff—all waving American flags and dressed as Rosie in tribute presented Ina with her ARRA membership certificate on the happy day. The Wichita Falls *Times Record News* covered

the event in an article. Ina was heard to say, "I feel honored to be honored. And I still feel like I could do it!"

A Family of Support

Rosie Ruth Pierson Webb of MI worked as a riveter at



Rosie **Ruth Webb** with her great-grand -daughter and other Rosie look-alikes!



Rosebuds Kelsey, Emily, and Kaylee (holding Skylar)

the Willow Run Bomber Plant from 1942 until the end of production. Now at age 95, she has participated in activities to help save the Willow Run plant from being torn down so it can be preserved as a museum.

Ruth's son. Rivet Robert Webb, also let us know that Ruth's greatgrandchildren made their own wagon float and pulled it more than a mile on a hot day for the Westland Memorial Day Parade, telling the crowd along the route about their all greatgrandmother and the Willow Run plant. And they won third place in the junior division! Congratulations, girls!

Rally in Rochester Hills, MI

More than 50 people gathered for a Rosie Rally in Rochester Hills, MI on August 15, 2015. Some even attended from Canada. There were Rosies, Rosie Look-Alikes, and Rosie Stand-Ins present. The oldest Rosie was 96 years old, and the youngest Rosie Look-Alike was seven months old.

Rosie Stand-Ins were women who "stood in" for real Rosies not present. They wore white signs bearing the name of their Rosie, along with her story, provided by former National ARRA President **Donnaleen Lanktree**. These stories started lots of interesting and informative conversations!



Everyone had the Rosie spirit!

Rosie On Parade



In 1941, Rosie **Betty Matousek Dmytryk** of GA started working in Cleveland, OH making small airplane parts for the war effort. Betty's friend, **Marilyn Little**, let us know that on August 1, 2015, 96-year-old Betty rode in a restored 1941 Cadillac convertible in the 63rd annual Old Soldiers Day Parade in Alpharetta, GA. She was recognized and thanked for her contribution to WW II. We thank you, too, Betty!

Rosie Betty Dmytryk

Good Times in Sun City



The Sun City, AZ ARRA Chapter celebrated the signing of the end of World War II by having lunch together at the Royal Café, listening to guest speakers who

served during the Viet Nam and Korean wars, and writing cards to service men and women overseas.



Keep the Spirit of `45 Alive!

One of our partner organizations, the Spirit of '45 coalition (<u>www.spiritof45.org</u>), under the direction of National Supervisor **Warren Hegg**, worked tirelessly to create opportunities for 70th Anniversary celebrations. Networked activities included a reenactment of the famous V-J Day Kiss photo in Times Square, an around-the-world wreath-laying tribute at veterans cemeteries worldwide, and many more celebrations at multiple locations. This page of their website gives a state-by-state report of what happened near you. Check it out at <u>http://www.spiritof45.org/participating_member_1.aspx</u>.

AMERICAN ROSIE THE RIVETER ASSOCIATION[®] Application for Membership

Reproduce a form for each applicant. Forms may also be downloaded from the website, www.rosietheriveter.net.

Membership type (check one):

- **Rosie:** Working woman of World War II (includes volunteer worker)
- **Rosebud:** Female descendant of a Rosie

Rivet: Male descendant of a Rosie, or spouse of a Rosie or Rosebud

_____ 21st Century Rosie: Currently doing "man's work" or retired from such work

*Rosebud Partner _____ or Rivet Partner ____: No ancestral requirement, but by marking this blank, Partner pledges to promote the purpose of the American Rosie the Riveter Association (see Purpose, below)

PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Name:	irst	Middle or Maiden	Last
Address:			
	Street, RF	D, or Box	Apt. No.
	City	State	Zip code
Telephone: ()		E-mail:	
May we send your Newsl	etter via e-mail? (ves	_ E-mail:	
		rrently engaged or from which you reti	
21st Century Rosie, give	work in which you are cu	rrently engaged or from which you ret	ired:
21st Century Rosie, give	work in which you are cu	rrently engaged or from which you ret	ired:
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Lifetime membership	b fees (no annual dues currently)	
\$10.00 21 st Century Rosies (Auxiliary) \$50.00		\$50.00
20.00	Rosebud Partners (Auxiliary)	30.00
20.00	Rivet Partners (Auxiliary)	30.00
S. 30.00	Rivets (Auxiliary)	No fee
	\$10.00 20.00 20.00	20.00Rosebud Partners (Auxiliary)20.00Rivet Partners (Auxiliary)

* **Purpose of the American Rosie the Riveter Association (ARRA):** To recognize and preserve the history and legacy of working women, including volunteer women, during World War II; to promote cooperation and fellowship among such members and their descendants; and to further the advancement of patriotic ideals, excellence in the workplace, and loyalty to the United States of America.

For more information about ARRA, call 1-888-557-6743 or email <u>americanrosietheriveter2@yahoo.com</u> or visit ARRA's Web site, <u>www.rosietheriveter.net</u>



AMERICAN ROSIE THE RIVETER ASSOCIATION[®]

209 University Park Drive Birmingham, AL 35209 1-888-557-6743 americanrosietheriveter2@yahoo.com www.rosietheriveter.net

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Membership Update

If you have moved, or know any member who is deceased, or if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email, please let us know. Please print carefully in CAPITAL letters. Send all update information to: **Stephanie Davis, 8336 Valley Oaks Drive, North Richland Hills, TX** 76182, or send email to: <u>alanandstephanie@gmail.com</u>

Name of member
New address
Old address
Current E-mail
Prefer to receive newsletter by email?
Current telephone
OR Deceased member's name

State of last residence _____Date of death ___

Thanks, Rosies, Plain & Simple!

Coordinated by the West Virginia organization called Thanks, Plain and Simple (<u>www.thanksplainandsimple.org</u>), Rosies were honored in ceremonies at the Dutch Royal Embas-



sy in Washington and with the King and Queen of The Netherlands in May, 2015. Also, the Eastern Panhandle Central Labor Committee honored five WV Rosies this summer. Pictured are Ada England, Ruth Cline Staples, Crena Anderson, Anna Hess, and Ethel Bovey,

with Rosebud Anne Montague, Founding Director of TP&S.

90+ Club Volunteers

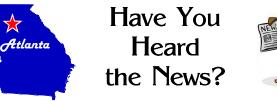
Thanks to all these wonderful Rosebuds for volunteering to help with our 90+ birthday cards: Carol Peters, Jo Ann Fisher, Stephanie Davis, Jessica Sorvala, Su-



san Teagarden, and **Lu Kizer**. If you are 90 years old or above, or know a Rosie who is, be sure we have that birthday on file! Send to **Carol Peters**, 4224 Mather Street, Kyle, TX 78640, or email her at <u>capeters12@austin.rr.com</u>.

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Note: In most cases, only one copy of the *Mail Call* is being sent to each household, so **we hope you'll let everyone read it before you file it away.** If you get more than one copy, let us know, then send one to a friend, especially a prospective member!



Our next national ARRA Convention will be June 10-12, 2016 (that's Friday, Saturday, Sunday) in <u>Atlanta, Georgia</u>! Mark your calendars now and watch for more information in the next issue of *Rosie's Mail Call* and on our website at www.rosietheriveter.net. You won't want to miss this!

Note this: Thanks, Plain and Simple, working with Veterans Affairs, is looking for Rosies who are also veterans. If you are one, or know of one, please send name and contact information to **Anne Montague**, 5313 F Carleton Court, Charleston, WV 25313, or email <u>thanksplainandsimple@earthlink.net</u>.

Student Grant Deadline



Help us spread the word! ARRA is offering \$100 grants for students in grades 9-12 who are willing to research, prepare, and present a program about Rosie the Riveter, and the deadline is almost here.

If awarded a grant, the student may use books, the Internet, personal interviews, and other sources to research

the roles and contributions of Rosies during WW II. A particular Rosie—perhaps a family member—may be spotlighted. The presentation could include drama, displays, music, *original* video, PowerPoint, or other multimedia methods, etc. It should be presented *at least two times* to groups such as a history class, civic



club, senior center, etc. Once the guidelines have been followed, the grant award can be included on the student's resumé.

To *request* an application, contact Marge Streicker, Student Grants Chairman, 3 Wooden Bridge Court, Reisterstown, MD 21136, marge1st111@verizon.net. Make your request now, as *completed* applications are <u>due Nov. 15, 2015</u>.