



PRAY FOR OUR  
MILITARY  
AND  
VETERANS

# ROSIE'S MAIL CALL

Volume 22, Issue 1

www.rosietheriveter.net

First Quarter, 2021

## ROSIE GETS THE GOLD!

### Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act Signed into Law!

Bill H.R. 1773 was signed into law by President Trump on December 3, 2020! The bill *collectively* awards the Congressional Gold Medal to “the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other materials to win the war,” referred to as “Rosie the Riveter.” Each Rosie will not be awarded an individual Gold Medal, but what an honor for all! A Gold Medal awarded from the United States Congress is the highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievement and contributions. The medal will be displayed at the National Museum of American History and at other locations related to Rosie the Riveter. Congratulations, Rosies!

### Eastern MI WOW Chapter Honors Rosies with Wreaths



The Eastern MI WOW Chapter honored two of their Rosies on December 19th. Although restrictions have made it difficult to meet, it was important to the chapter to honor Rosies **Mary Maiuri** and **Helen Jablonski**, who both recently passed

away in 2020, as part of the Wreaths Across America graveside ceremonies. Pictured left to right are Rosebud **Antoinette Jablonski**, Rosie **Frances Masters**, Rosebud **Mary O'Brien**, **Jeanette Marrs**, Rosebud **Carol Pezet**, chapter President **Bette Kenward**, and **Barbara Andress**. Not pictured but present were **Angela Maiuri**, **Deb Wake**, and **Holly Jablonski**. What a wonderful tribute!

### A Surprise for a Maryland Rosie



Rosie Janet Randle (left) with her new membership certificate and (right) during WW II in her cadet nurse uniform.

Recently, Rosubud **Cathy Rosenberger** of the Laurel, MD Chapter was at the county senior center and overheard **Janet Randle**, 95, say, “I was a nurse during World War II.” Cathy learned Janet’s story and secretly signed her up for ARRA. When the membership certificate arrived, Cathy laminated it and planned an event in Janet’s honor. A surprise ceremony was held at the senior center where Janet was presented with her certificate. Laurel, MD Chapter President **Ann Marie Miller** gave a talk on the history of the Rosies, and Rosie **Wilma Foster** shared her riveting P-51 stories with the group. Then, Janet herself shared her recollections of working as a cadet nurse on the home front. Janet’s story is featured in the latest book of Rosie stories, *Stepping Up For Victory!* on page 147. Janet was very excited to receive her very own copy of the book, and since Janet is visually impaired, a neighbor is reading her all 100 stories—one each day!

Welcome to ARRA, Rosie Janet!

### ARRA's Newest Rosie Book is Here!

#### *Stepping Up For Victory!*

We are proud and very happy to announce that ARRA has published a seventh book of Rosie stories entitled *Stepping Up For Victory!* This latest book in the collection contains 100 true stories by and about Rosies from around the country.

Order your copy (\$17), as well as other books in the series about our inspiring Rosies. A new patch and a new canvas bag with ARRA’s Rosie Victory design (from the book’s cover) are now available! (To order, shop online with [rosietheriveter.net](http://rosietheriveter.net) or use the Rosie Shoppe address on page 3.)

#### Stepping Up For Victory!

100 Rosie the Riveter Stories



True stories written by and about women who worked on the home front during World War II

American Rosie the Riveter Association



## ARRA President's Message

**Happy 2021 and greetings to all!**

I am so proud of our members who continue to power-through by finding heartwarming, yet responsible ways to celebrate, honor, and stay connected with our Rosies! As you can see from this newsletter, members were able to carry on by being resilient and resourceful—qualities we have certainly learned from our Rosies!

I want to thank everyone who submitted Rosie biographies for ARRA's newest book, *Stepping Up For Victory!* (see p. 1). It is more important than ever to preserve this history by capturing each Rosie's unique experience during WWII. Even if you missed the deadline for this book, please continue sending them in for the ARRA archives and for a future ARRA book!

A new ARRA Rosie Victory patch (see page 4) is now available in the Rosie Shoppe—complete with the dot-dot-dash Morse code for the letter "V" for Victory! Many members have asked about patches, and these are not only great for adding style to your jackets, but also make great awards to scouting groups and community organizations who help spread the Rosie legacy.

And just a reminder that March 21st is National Rosie the Riveter Day—but for ARRA, every day is Rosie the Riveter Day!

—Gretchen Caulfield (Rosebud-2, CT)  
ARRA National President

## Willow Run, MI Chapter on the Go!

The Willow Run, MI Chapter suspended activities for winter, but not before celebrating Veterans Day. Pictured above is chapter President **Nancy Zajac** between Rosie **Flo McCarty** (left), who served in the Navy WAVES, and Rosie **Virginia Basler** (right), who served in the Coast Guard SPARS!



In November, Rosebuds **Jeannette Gutierrez** and **Vivian Larsh** gave a Zoom presentation to the National Association of Women in Construction. And in December, chapter officers participated in the all-day Rosie Radiothon at FOX 103.9 in Flint. Pictured on right are Rosebuds **Jeannette Gutierrez** (left) and **Vivian Larsh** (right) with **Amber Taylor** (center) of the Flint Women's Forum.



To stay connected to Rosies and WWII Vets who would normally be attending chapter events, chapter officers mailed or drop off monthly themed goody bags.

And to give all Michigan members an opportunity to connect, the chapter started a Cards & Letters Program, asking Michigan members to send birthday or other greetings requested by the families. They are bundled and passed along to a Rosie or Vet.

For Valentine's Day this year, the chapter wanted to let Michigan members make the Valentines! They launched the "Sisterhood of the Traveling Crafts" and sent the Rosie Valentine craft box circulating to area members. Several crafty Rosebuds made dozens of beautiful cards, and they were mailed out to each of our Rosies and Vets in February. The cards are "from all the members of the ARRA of Michigan," with a special place to be signed by the Rosebud who made it!

## McKenzie, OR Chapter Zooms Down Memory Lane



As the pandemic continues...Oregon Rosies and members are missing each other! So the McKenzie Chapter decided to hold Zoom meetings with a focus on sharing stories. December's topic was "Share your memory of a favorite gift, given or received." Each story was delightful, but Rosie **Anne Olsen's** story of baking a pie in Eugene and getting it all the way to their son on the East Coast in ONE day was truly remarkable!

January's topic was, "How did your family end up in Oregon?" We heard stories of work, travel, and dreams, including families who came to Oregon via wagon train! We have discovered that we can all Zoom: some with computers, some with the help of family, and some joining the conversation via telephone. We also discovered that practicing in advance was key because most of us were new to Zoom. We look forward to the time when we can meet in person and share hugs once again!

## Electing Officers for 2021-2023 Term

With disappointment, due to COVID, we are unable to hold a 2021 Convention. During the convention, we would normally be electing a new slate of national officers. Due to these circumstances, we must take an alternate route, following ARRA By-laws Article VI (c), which states, "The Executive Committee is empowered to attend to all business of the Association between annual Conventions." Therefore, the slate of officer nominees from the Nominating Committee will be considered and voted upon by the Executive Committee in June. The 2021-2023 slate of officer nominees will be announced in the next quarterly newsletter.

## Baltimore, MD Chapter Reports Girl Scouts Plant a Rosie Garden



The Baltimore, MD Chapter thanks **Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Cadette Scout Troop 5916** 9th graders, **Angelina**, **Tanvi**, and **Amulya** (pictured left to right) on their amazing job initiating Maryland's third Rosie the Riveter Memorial Rose Garden. Working with Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, they accomplished this project in a challenging year, laying out the upkeep of the gardens to pass on to their Manor Woods Cluster Troops, which will enable younger girls to learn about the Rosies while earning service hours working on the garden!

## December Doings of Cheboygan & Emmet Counties, MI Chapter



As part of the Cheboygan & Emmet Counties, MI Chapter's ongoing Rosie interview initiative, the *Cheboygan Tribune* on December 1, 2020, ran an article written by chapter President, Rosebud **Linda Rogers**. The article featured Rosie **Grace Forgrave** (pictured above) and was based on an interview conducted via Zoom by Rosebud **Angie Morthland**. What a nice holiday gift it was to the community to share her story!

Also during the holiday season, the chapter baked and decorated Rosie cookies for area essential workers. Healthcare workers, police, and city workers received specially-delivered sweet treats thanking them for their service.

New technology? We Can Do It...The chapter is proud to report that their December monthly meeting was held via Zoom. The popular conferencing app is helping the chapter stay connected to plan for 2021, share ideas, interview leads, and show-and-tell artifacts.

From December 5th to January 16th, the chapter took part in the Mackinaw City Festival of Lights, a city-wide display. Pictured below on left is **Angie Morthland** and on right is **Linda Rogers**. Their entry was a festive display downtown at the Rosie the Riveter Rose Garden. And if that isn't enough, these gals create lovely handmade cards for Rosies and WWII Vets as part of ARRA of Michigan's statewide Rosie Cards & Letter Program!

Do you have a Rosie in another state that would enjoy a card? Email chapter President, Rosebud **Linda Rogers**, at [mackinawmemories@gmail.com](mailto:mackinawmemories@gmail.com).



## Connecticut Corsair Chapter News

The Stratford, CT (Corsair) Chapter was so grateful to be involved with the 6-month long exhibit, "Manufacturing Victory: The Arsenal of Democracy," produced by the National World War II Museum at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford, CT. ARRA National President **Gretchen Caulfield** and CT chapter secretary **Pat Ostrowki** enjoyed working with



*Women in the Workforce exhibit room with Rosie Mary H. Ostrowski's factory outfit—front and center!*

Central CT State University Museum Studies graduate student, **Andy Sistrand**, who cataloged the chapter's materials. CT Historical Society Curator **Ben Gammell** and the CHS created the additional state theme of CT Women in the Workforce.

The chapter was pleased to loan out these treasured items for display: Rosie **Mary H. Ostrowski's** Chance Vought Aircraft factory outfit that she wore on the assembly line while building the landing gear for the Corsair F4U airplanes in Stratford, CT; an original War Alarm clock manufactured by the Gilbert Clock Factory in Winsted, CT (one of the only companies allowed to continue to make clocks for war workers instead of transitioning to War Production); an enlarged reproduction of Chance Vought Aircraft's "Ladies Day on the Battlefront" campaign ad to recruit more women to the workforce, featuring Rosie **Val Opshinsky Snowden**, who was a secretary for Chance Vought and the model for the iconic ad and billboards. Many thanks to Rivet **Rob Snowden**, who donated the enlarged ads to the chapter.

A virtual tour of this part of the exhibit can be viewed here: <https://chs.org/online-exhibition/virtualtour-connecticutandwwiimanufacturing/>

## 2020 ARRA Student Grant Winner!



*Rosebud Megan hiking at Big Bend National Park with her mom, Rosebud Sharon Peters*

**Megan** is a member of the Central Texas Chapter and the 2020 ARRA Student Grant recipient. When she received the grant last spring, she was in 8th grade. Due to COVID, Carol Cain, ARRA Student Grant chair, has extended the deadline for her to complete her project until Megan can present it twice, in an in-person setting, as required. Megan is now a freshman at San Marcos High School in San Marcos, Texas. She is a Rosebud-3, great-granddaughter of **Annie Aikins Hawkins**, who was a Rosie in Ohio during World War II and is featured in two ARRA books, *Rosie Romances* and the

*ARRA Cookbook*. Megan comes from an unbroken line of Rosebuds, since both mom **Sharon Peters** and grandmother **Carol Peters** are ARRA members.

The chapter is very proud of Megan, and everyone looks forward to seeing her presentations with the San Marcos Civil Air Patrol in the near future!

## SPORT YOUR ROSIE SPIRIT!

New ARRA Custom Products Now in the Rosie Shoppe!



**ARRA Rosie Victory cotton tote bag \$20**

**ARRA face mask \$12**  
2-ply cotton, ear loops (navy, red, black)



**ARRA Rosie Victory patch \$5**

**To order:** Enclose check or money order made payable to ARRA. Prices include shipping!  
**Send to:** ARRA Rosie Shoppe, 950 Irving Street, Vandergrift, PA 15690, or shop online at [rosietheriveter.net](http://rosietheriveter.net).



## AMERICAN ROSIE THE RIVETER ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 241  
Greens Farms, CT 06838  
1-888-557-6743  
americanrosietheriveter2@yahoo.com  
www.rosietheriveter.net

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Send newsletter information to nellbran@yahoo.com.

### 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 our VP Membership: **Laura Wright, Vice President for Membership, 809 W. Iola Place, Broken Arrow, OK 74012, or send email to: [membershiparra@gmail.com](mailto:membershiparra@gmail.com)**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Orange County, CA Chapter Keeps in Touch!

As a fairly new chapter, the Orange County, CA Chapter had so much planned, but quarantine forced a change of direction. So they focused on projects that didn't require meeting in person, as well as spreading the word of Rosie pride! The chapter participated in a big way in ARRA's



“Rosies Rally ‘Round the Troops” program. The chapter submitted 375 letters and notes of cheer (pictured above) to service members written by chapter members and friends!



Then, in December, the chapter sent a Rosie-themed package of Christmas cheer (pictured left) to four Rosies at the Emerald Court Senior Living Community. The local Orange County Library celebrates PRIDE, and the chapter submitted a Rosie photo to be included in the county newsletter. Chapter President,

Rosebud **Michele Pisa-Jones**, sewed masks for Rosies, members, and anyone else who wanted one! Our Orange County gals sure know how to keep in touch!



### FREE Rosie Memberships Order ONLINE with special link



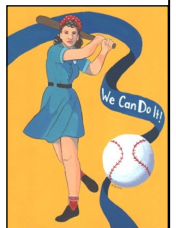
If you haven't registered *all* of the Rosies in your family, this is the time to do it for FREE, but there is *limited availability*. Be sure to spread the word!

Sign up for Free Rosie and Rosie Volunteer memberships with certificates. Free Deceased Rosie Registry with certificate is also available.

It is only available online, using this special link:  
<https://rosietheriveter.net/rosie-shoppe/free-rosie-membership-special/>

### Rosebud Commissions Rosie-themed Art!

Over the years, Rosebud **Angie Morthland** of the Cheboygan & Emmet Counties, MI Chapter has commissioned a whole gallery of original Rosie the Riveter art! It all started with the first Rosie the Riveter Day on March 21, 2016, when Angie commissioned her goddaughter, **Michelle Hunt**, to create an original drawing honoring Rosie. Every year since, Angie has commissioned a work by this young artist to commemorate Rosie the Riveter Day in March. Angie gives Michelle a particular “Rosie” theme to illustrate and is always thrilled to see what Michelle creates. Past themes have included women mechanics, Rosies of all ethnicities working side-by-side, and women who played pro and semi-pro baseball during WWII (pictured right). This year, Angie has given Michelle the theme of Rosie seamstresses, in honor of ARRA's mask-sewing Rosie, **Mae Krier**, who stepped up this year to battle COVID-19 with her masks, and the Rosies who sewed many critical items during WWII.



Angie's youngest daughter has also joined in, creating her own original interpretations of Rosie over the years, as have students Angie has taught. Community artists and craftsmen often jump onboard, too. She has become quite an art magnet and is proud of her collection! We are proud of her original way of reaching out to young artists who are inspired by the Rosie legacy.