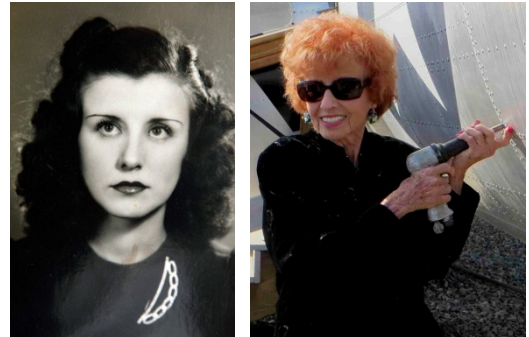


## America's Longest Working Rosie, 97, leads national campaign to create living memorial honoring women who worked on the Home Front during WWII

(New York City) Elinor Otto was a 22-year old single mom when she began building bombers in 1942 as one of the millions of women who took manufacturing jobs that were vacated by men during WWII and who are commonly referred to as "Rosie the Riveters."



Seventy-five years later, at age 95, Ms. Otto put her rivet gun down for the last time when the Boeing plant in Long Beach where she was working shut down – earning her the title of "**America's Longest Working Rosie the Riveter.**"

Today, at 97, Elinor is helping to create a national network of rose gardens that will be a living memorial to the achievements of her fellow Rosie's and that she hopes will be an inspiration to women of all ages. The gardens will feature a new **Rosie the Riveter Rose** that will be available for planting in early 2018.

The goal is to have a **Rosie the Riveter Memorial Rose Garden** in every Congressional District in time for an international commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII that is being planned for 2020.

"I want to make sure that the contributions of the women who worked on the Home Front during WWII are remembered so that our example can educate and inspire future generations, especially young girls," said Otto.

The first Rosie Rose Garden was planted by the National Park Service at its Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front Historical Park in Richmond, CA, on March 21, which Congress has designated as **National Rosie the Riveter Day** during National Women's History Month. Ms Otto and U.S. Representative Alan Lowenthal, one of the co-sponsors of the new national day, planted a second Garden in Long Beach, CA.



Ms Otto will be in New York City to attend a Spirit of '45 Day event at the New Yorker Hotel on August 12, where she will announce the first phase of Gardens that are being planned in more than 30 states, as thousands of Rosie lookalikes rally at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front Historical Park to show support for the project.

The project is an initiative of Spirit of '45, a nonprofit alliance of organizations and individuals that promotes public awareness and participation in Spirit of '45 Day, the annual day honoring the men and women of the WWII generation. Spirit of '45 Day was passed unanimously by the U.S. Congress in 2010, and is now observed in communities throughout America each year during the second weekend in August.

"Eventually, Rosie Roses will be blooming in communities everywhere in America to help educate people about the Rosie's and how they paved the way for greater opportunities for women in the workplace," said Linda Laurie, who is coordinating the national effort, working with the American Rose Society and other groups.