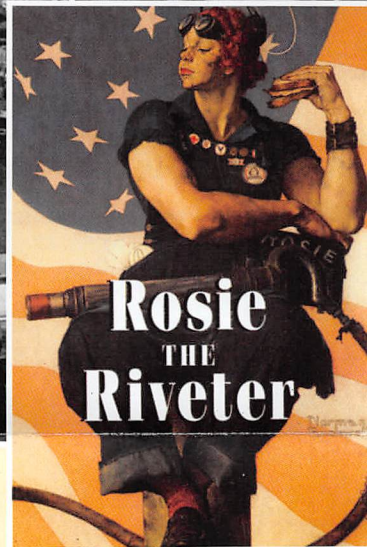
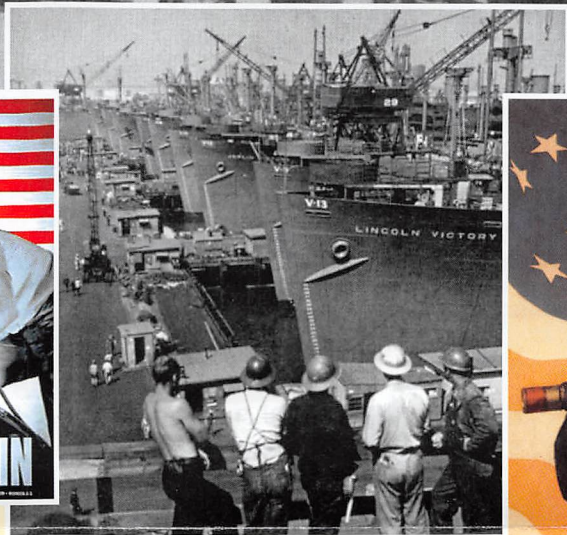


# Rosie the Riveter

## World War II Home Front

National Historical Park  
Richmond, California

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### The Home Front

While more than 16 million American men and women served in the military during World War II, many millions more waged war on the Home Front—in factories, hospitals, and schools in every community in the country. These Americans did not think of themselves as heroic, but the victory in World War II could not have occurred without them.

Fully engaged in winning the war, American women and men of every race worked together toward a common goal in a manner that has not been equaled since. Women affectionately known as “Rosies” (after a popular song of the day, “Rosie the Riveter”) entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers and exploded myths about what women could and couldn’t do.

Located in Richmond, California, and including examples of industrial production facilities and social institutions that arose as a result of the total war effort, Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park is charged with preserving the stories and physical evidence from this significant chapter in our country’s history.

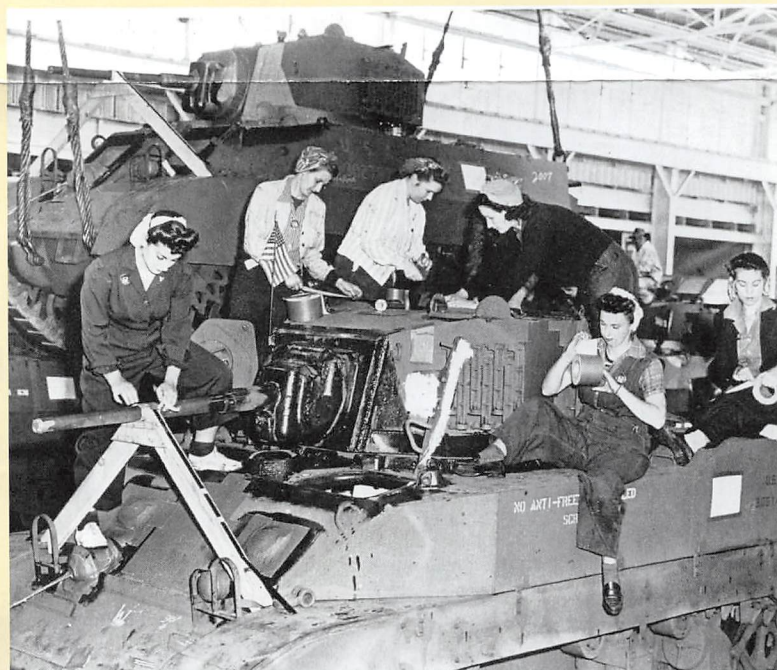
### Industrial Production—the “Arsenal of Democracy”

In a fireside chat, President Franklin D. Roosevelt challenged America to become the “Arsenal of Democracy”—by creating the military might needed to defeat the Axis powers. Americans responded to this challenge by mobilizing industrial production on a scale unimaginable before the war, and outproducing all other nations during World War II. Not only was the American military the best equipped, Home Front workers produced enough to supply allies as well. Science and industry on the Home Front led to a host of technological

advances that seem commonplace to us today, including atomic power, jet propulsion, computers, and antibiotics.



Above: Red Oak Victory, built in Richmond, California, in 1944.  
Right: “Rosies” preparing a tank for shipment.





**Legend**

- 1. Rosie the Riveter Memorial
- 2. SS Red Oak Victory
- 3. Whirley Crane
- 4. Richmond Shipyard No.3
- 5. Lucretia Edwards Park
- 6. Ford Assembly Plant Building
- 7. Sheridan Observation Point
- 8. Barbara & Jay Vincent Park
- 9. Shimada Peace Memorial Park
- 10. SF Bay Trail Esplanade Wayside Exhibits
- 11. Kaiser Field Hospital
- 12. Richmond Fire Station #7
- 13. Ruth C. Powers & Maritime Child Development Centers
- 14. Atchison Village
- 15. Richmond Museum of History

- Park Boundary
- Historic Buildings
- Memorial
- Wayside Exhibits
- Transit Stations

**Lasting Impact to American Society**



Caring for the children of the workers helped make childcare a national institution.

Sweeping and lasting social and cultural impacts of the World War II Home Front continue to the present day. Massive migration of workers transformed America from a rural to an urban nation in a very short time, and largely shaped the nation's demographic patterns that have existed since the war. America's promise and problems were exposed as steps were taken on the long road toward racial integration and the fair treatment of women and minorities in the labor force. Childcare and pre-paid medical care, almost non-existent before World War II, are institutions of American life today.



Top: Welders on the job. (circa 1944)  
Bottom: A reunion of "Rosies". (2003)

**The Park**

For information on how to visit the park, get more in-depth information, or view and/or download park studies and newsletters, go to:

[www.nps.gov/rori](http://www.nps.gov/rori)

**For general park information, call (510) 232-5050**

If you have a story of life on the World War II home front or any memorabilia to share—or know someone who does—please call us, or visit our website for information on how to submit a story.

