

Congress Should Honor the Service of the 18M Women Who Worked on the Home Front During WWII with a Memorial on the National Mall

During World War II, more than 18 million women answered the call to hold down the home front by working as pilots, engineers, electricians, mechanics, code breakers, and more. Not only did these “Rosie the Riveters” help win the war and save countless American lives, they also inspired future generations of women to join the workforce and serve their country.

In 2022, Congress enacted bipartisan legislation ([Pub. L. No. 117-328](#)) authorizing the World War II Women’s Memorial Foundation to establish—with only private funds—a memorial in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the service and sacrifice of these women to the United States. Congress must now pass legislation to authorize the location of the memorial, and it should be built near the World War II Memorial on the National Mall.

The WWII Women’s Memorial Should Be Built Near the World War II Memorial

- People from around the world visit the National Mall to explore our nation’s history. The women who showed the world what America was capable of during World War II are an important part of our legacy.
- While the National Mall includes a memorial to the men who served in World War II, it noticeably lacks a prominent work honoring the heroic contributions of the women of World War II. These women served as the backbone of the war effort and built planes, tanks, munitions, and other equipment needed by American troops. As General Eisenhower said, “The contribution of the women of America, whether on the farm or in the factory or in uniform, to D-Day was a sine qua non of the invasion effort.” Their significant contribution merits recognition in a preeminent location: the National Mall.
- According to a study by the National Capital Planning Commission, only 6% of commemorative works in D.C. prominently feature women. Their contributions to American history, including World War II, deserve greater recognition on federal lands.
- More than a decade after the completion of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Women’s Memorial was dedicated just yards away from the Wall to pay tribute to the 265,000 military and civilian women who served during the Vietnam Era. Likewise, the memorial honoring the millions of American women of World War II should be located near the World War II Memorial given the strong historical nexus between the two commemorative works.

Congress Should Act Now To Pass the WWII Women’s Memorial Location Act

- Congress must pass new legislation to authorize the WWII Women’s Memorial to be located near the WWII Memorial on the Mall.
- Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Russ Fulcher (R-ID) introduced the WWII Women’s Memorial Location Act to honor the millions of women who worked on the home front by allowing their memorial to be built on the Mall near the World War II Memorial. Enacting this bipartisan, bicameral legislation will help complete the story of World War II on the Mall and rightly recognize the role our Rosies played in our nation’s history.
- Congress should act quickly to enact this location legislation. The initial authorizing legislation for the memorial (enacted in 2022) started a seven-year clock. This means that less than five years remain to site, design, and build the memorial. Moreover, many Rosies are celebrating their 98th, 99th, and centennial birthdays. Living Rosies deserve the opportunity to see the memorial come to fruition in their lifetimes.