

ROYAL OAK

WE CAN DO IT!

Rosie the Riveter joins WWII memorial fundraising effort

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Rosie the Riveter is coming to Royal Oak

A life-size statue of Rosie the Riveter is set to be unveiled at Royal Oak's Farmers Market on Friday to highlight a fundraising effort by the same group that arranged to install a 25-foot statue of a World War II sailor kissing a nurse at 13 Mile and Woodward this summer.

"Rosie had been in Indiana and needs to be in New York for the Veteran's Day Parade so we had a five-week window to bring to her Royal Oak," said Debi Hollis, a Royal Oak resident who is president of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial.

The Rosie sculpture is a Seward Johnson creation, the same artist who came up with the statue of the iconic image of a sailor kissing a nurse at the end of World War II.

Rosie will be unveiled at 11 a.m. Friday at Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, to draw attention to the upcoming Victory Gala fundraiser that Hollis's group is hosting there Oct. 13.

Entitled "Can Do!," the sculpture also typifies the spirit of Hollis's small group to build a \$3 million war memorial at Memorial Park in Royal Oak.

The non-profit memorial

project is planned to have nine bronze statues, a gathering space and a donor walk.

It is designed to honor the more than 600,000 Michigan residents who served in the military during WWII.

A large number of the donors to the project thus far are the children and grandchildren of those who served during the war, Hollis said.

"We are starting to reach that younger generation of grandchildren who are mostly 40 years or older," she said. "We want to help them understand the importance of this generation who served in WWII and what the Greatest Generation did for us."

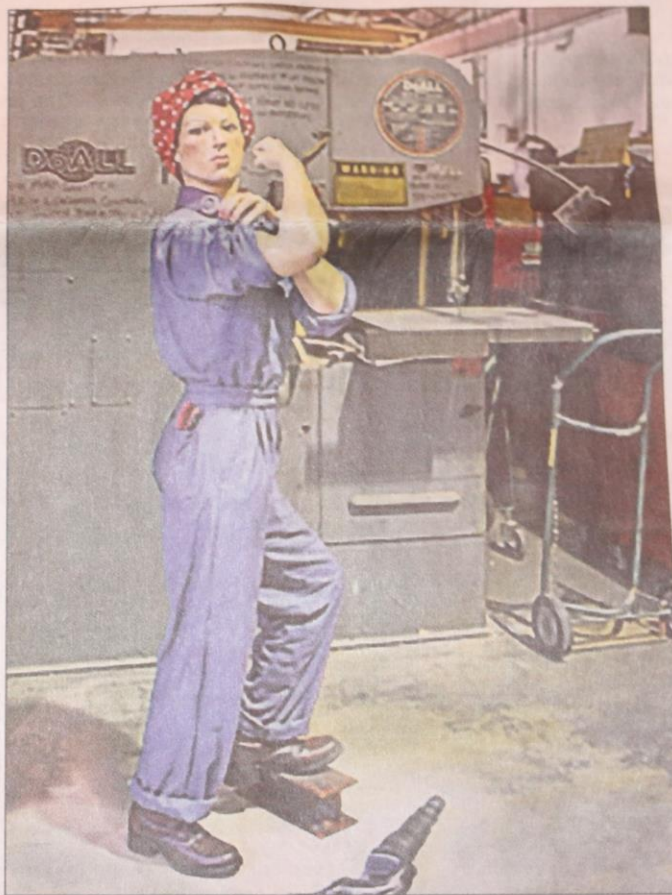
The Victory Gala fundraiser will feature the presentation of the "Victory Award" to Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson and Fireman First Class Art Fishman, a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps Cadet program and the U.S. Navy. The two men are being honored for their support in getting the memorial built in Royal Oak.

The gala includes a strolling dinner, a live auction, WWII reenactors, Tribute Rosies, and period displays.

History Prof. Gregory Sumner of the University of Detroit Mercy, author of "Detroit in World War II," will discuss the Motor City's wartime role sacrifices.

Information and tickets

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RENDERING FROM DEBI HOLLIS — COURTESY OF THE SEWARD JOHNSON ATELIER, INC.

A life-size statue of Rosie the Riveter by artist Seward Johnson, emblematic of women working during the war in the 1940s, will be unveiled at Farmers Market in Royal Oak on Friday as part of a fundraising effort by the Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial.

Rosie

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to the gala are online at thevictorygala.org.

The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial is the state's officially recognized tribute to honor Michigan's contributions during WWII on the war front and home front as the Arsenal of De-

mocracy and home of Rosie the Riveter.

The "Can Do!" statue of Rosie "is a reminder of the contributions of women during WWII, including the thousands who stepped forward to build the planes, ships, vehicles and other equipment necessary to win the war," said Paula Stocke, curator at the Seward Johnson Atelier, in a statement.