

Thank you for inviting us to be a part of today's ceremony.

Shakespeare's Romeo said, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet", but with this rose the name has great meaning.

The *Rosie the Riveter* rose pays tribute to the women who worked in factories and shipyards during WWII. The old-fashioned flowers of orange-gold are rimmed with pink with a gold reverse. Exquisite buds sit atop sturdy stems symbolizing femininity *and* strength. Her scent is fruity and spicy with a hint of cinnamon.

The Rosie the Riveter Rose is a hybrid cultivated by Christian Be'dard (2018) by crossing a tea rose, *Hotel California*, with a polyantha, *Distant Drums*, resulting in a Floribunda type rose which draws its characteristics from both parents.

One parent, *Hotel California*, the tea rose, much like a Mr. Lincoln or Queen Elizabeth, is best known for the elegant, single blooms and long stems. These are the buds often seen in flower arrangements for weddings, Mother's Day, or anniversaries. After blooming, the tea rose takes about a 6-week rest before setting additional blooms.

The other parent, *Distant Drums*, a polyantha, is like those we call "climbing" roses, drift roses, or the popular Knock Out roses, producing small but abundant blooms. These can be counted on for an explosion of blooms throughout the growing season with no times for rest.

Enter the floribunda hybrid, *Rosie the Riveter*, the product of this cross, capturing strengths from both parents. Floribunda, in Latin, means "*flowering freely*." As its name suggests, the *Rosie* is a blooming machine. She blooms with clusters of 3-3½" beautiful blooms with several of her double blooms in flower at one time. *Rosie* will put forth blooms that are much like those of the hybrid tea, sturdy and strong, but requiring no resting periods.

Rosie will make a marvelous landscape planting due to her lower and bushy form — she loves to cover herself with clusters or sprays of blooms. She is easy to care for as well as being very hardy. Once established, and with proper care, *Rosie* will reward us by being continually in bloom during the growing season.

She can tolerate cold weather, thriving in USDA plant hardiness zones 2 through 9. She will grow about 3 feet wide and 2 to 3 feet tall, preferring full sun. She is tolerant of both alkaline or slightly acidic soil.

The *Rosie the Riveter* rose is the perfect choice to honor and memorialize the Rosies of WWII. She is not only beautiful; she is adaptable, strong, and hard working. She sends us the message through her clusters of blooms: "Yes, We Can."

Remarks by Carol Ann Whitehead
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