



BOILERMAKERS
LOCAL 549



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(Photocredit: Left to right, USS Red Oak Victory, courtesy of Dori Luzbetak, Bottom Image, Boilermakers L549, courtesy of Andrew Hayes)

“Victory Ship Revival” Project of The USS Red Oak Victory to Launch in August 2025

Modern Day Rosies to begin first phase of new restoration initiative on The *USS Red Oak Victory* in Richmond, CA on August 18, 2025

RICHMOND, Calif. (Thursday, July 31, 2025) – The [USS Red Oak Victory](http://USSRedOakVictory.com) is launching the *Victory Ship Revival*, a historic preservation initiative in joint partnership and in honor of the 25th Anniversary of [Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park](http://RosieTheRiveter.com) with the [International Boilermakers Local Union 549](http://BoilermakersLocal549.com) to restore and revitalize the last surviving vessel built at the Richmond Kaiser Shipyards during World War II.

A symbol of American resilience and industrial might, the USS Red Oak Victory is one of 747 ships constructed at the shipyards, and the only one that remains. Today, she serves as a floating museum and a powerful monument to the men and women who built the wartime fleet. However, after decades exposed to the elements, the ship is in urgent need of structural repairs, preservation efforts, and cosmetic restoration. Thanks to 25 years of tireless work by her dedicated crew, the USS Red Oak Victory has been brought to the point where this new restoration initiative can begin. With the goal to raise \$125,000 for materials, equipment, paint, supplies, and required upgrades, this fundraiser will ensure the completion of the first phase of the Victory Ship Revival.

Modern Day Rosies Answer the Call

In a historic full-circle moment, a new generation of women, nicknamed “Modern Day Rosies”, are leading the charge to continue the Red Oak Victory’s restoration. In partnership with the [International Boilermakers Local Union 549](#), a boilermaker and welding union based in Pittsburg, CA, [Rosie the Riveter Trust](#), and other labor and trade organizations, the restoration work will echo the ship’s original construction, which was famously driven by women on the WWII home front.

“These Modern Day Rosies aren’t just restoring a ship—they’re preserving a legacy,” said **Fred Klink**, Director of Marketing for USS Red Oak Victory. *“This vessel tells a powerful story of what American industry and community can achieve. With the help of today’s Rosies, we’re ensuring that story continues for future generations.”*

Beginning August 18 through August 29, present-day tradeswomen will tackle a punch list of tasks, including welding, stripping, and painting—to help preserve the structural integrity and historical authenticity of this original Victory Ship. In a powerful full-circle moment, these are the very jobs the original Rosies carried out at the Richmond shipyards during World War II. This initiative is part of a year-long commemoration of Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park.

“This project captures the heart of the National Park. It represents dedication to sharing the story of the home front, collaboration, and the power and ability of women,” said Sarah Pritchard, Executive Director of Rosie the Riveter Trust. *“By investing in Red Oak Victory’s upkeep, we honor the legacy of the women and men who built her and help secure her place as a landmark of American resilience and ingenuity,”* Pritchard said.

Reviving a Bay Area Anchor

Beyond preserving history, the Victory Ship Revival is positioned to create a lasting impact for the **City of Richmond**. The revitalization of the SS Red Oak Victory will strengthen civic pride by restoring a Richmond-built icon that celebrates the city’s pivotal role in the WWII home front effort. The revitalization is part of a larger economic development aimed at anchoring future waterfront improvements and drawing attention to Richmond’s unique cultural and maritime assets.

“The SS Red Oak Victory represents the spirit of Richmond. It tells the story of everyday people who stepped up during a time of national need and built something that still stands today”, added Eduardo Martinez, Mayor of Richmond, CA. “Restoring this ship means protecting that story and making sure future generations can learn from it. We are proud to support this effort and thank all those involved for keeping history alive.”

Join the Movement: How You Can Help

Community members and organizations are invited to support the revival effort through donations, in-kind contributions, and by spreading the word. All support helps fund materials, equipment, and labor for this crucial preservation project. For more information on the project or to support, please visit www.redoakvictory.us/victory-ship-revival or email revival@redoakvictory.us to ensure this historic vessel continues to educate and inspire.

MEDIA PREVIEW:

Media and key officials are invited to an exclusive preview on Thursday, **Aug 21, 2025**. [Details and RSVP can be found here.](#)

About the USS Red Oak Victory

The USS Red Oak Victory is a WWII-era Victory ship built in Richmond, California, in 1944. Operated by the Richmond Museum Association, it is docked at Shipyard 3, and part of Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. The ship serves as a museum and educational center. www.redoakvictory.us

About the Victory Ship Revival Project

This project is a collaborative effort led by the SS Red Oak Victory in partnership with Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park, the City of Richmond, International Boilermakers Local 549, and Rosie the Riveter Trust.

About Rosie the Riveter Trust

Rosie the Riveter Trust celebrates the stories of sacrifice, opportunity, and profound social change that took place in America during World War II. As the official nonprofit partner of Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park located in Richmond, California, we honor the strong work ethic of people from all backgrounds who worked on the home front. Through historic preservation and educational programming, we inspire people to learn from history and apply those lessons in today's world. Contact Pamela Kruse-Buckingham, Communications and Marketing Manager at pam@rosietheriveter.org or call 510-507-2276.

About Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park

Located in Richmond, California, Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park commemorates the contributions of American civilians during World War II, with a special focus on the roles of women. Through exhibits, guided tours, and educational programs, the Park preserves the rich history of the Home Front and celebrates the spirit of the "We Can Do It!" era. Visit <https://www.nps.gov/rori/index.htm> for more information.