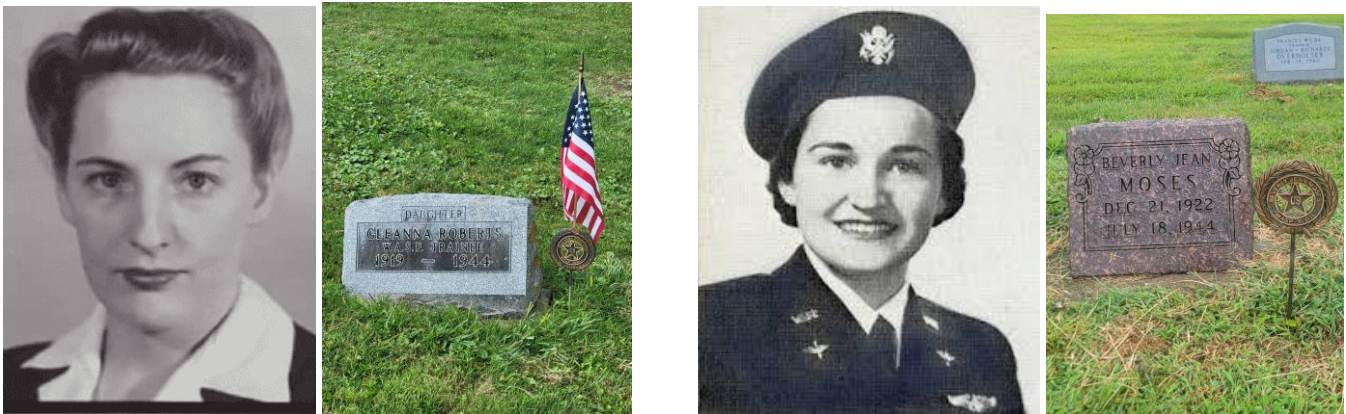


Media Advisory:

IDVA and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) Museum Announce ‘Gleanna Roberts and Beverly Jean Moses Day’ September 5th, 2024.

CAMP DODGE, JOHNSTON, IOWA – In partnership with ambassador of the National Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) WWII Museum Larry Ritland, The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) is hosting a Proclamation Reading on the west steps of the State Capitol, Sept. 5th, 2024, at 9 a.m., designating the day ‘Gleanna Roberts and Beverly Jean Moses Day’ in Iowa.



Background: This event honors the memory of Iowan WASPs Roberts and Moses, Gold Star WWII veterans killed on flying missions over the continental U.S. during WWII. Brief biographies of Roberts, Moses, and each of “The 38” WASPs killed on mission during WWII can be found at <https://cafriseabove.org/gleanna-roberts/>; and <https://cafriseabove.org/beverly-jean-moses/>.

Originally of Roland, Ritland has embarked on a multi-state, long-distance commemorative bike ride to raise awareness of WASP contributions during WWII, and the prices they paid for the freedom we enjoy today. The Iowa leg is the first part of a ride taking participants from Iowa to the museum in Sweetwater, Tx., near Avenger Field where most WASPs were trained. In Iowa, participants will start at the burial site of Roberts in Sharon Center (Johnson Co.) Sept. 3rd; arriving at the burial site of Moses in Pleasant Hill Sept. 4th, with the proclamation reading Sept. 5th. He’s scheduled to conclude this tour at the museum in Sweetwater in a culminating celebration Sept. 28th. More about this tour – including registration for participants - Ritland, WASPs, and the WASP WWII Museum can be found at <https://www.waspmuseum.org/event/wasp-legacy-ride-celebration/>. He will be available after the event for interviews.

Media and the public are invited to attend. The event will also be broadcast state-wide and recorded on our facebook page at facebook.com/iowaDepartmentofVeteransAffairs.

WHAT: ‘Gleanna Roberts and Beverly Jean Moses (WASPs) Day’ Proclamation Reading.

WHO: IDVA Commandant Todd Jacobus, and WASP and WWII Museum Ambassador Larry Ritland.

WHEN: Sept. 5th, at 9 a.m.

WHERE: West State Capitol steps.

Attendance: This is a public ceremony, free and open to all.