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The service and sacrifices of military veterans will be honored Saturday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m. when the City of Burleson hosts the seventh annual Military Veteran Tribute at Veterans Memorial Park at Renfro Square.

The City will pay tribute to the WASP, United States Merchant Marine and Rosie the Riveter. In September 1942, Nancy Harkness Love, with the support of the U.S. Air Transport Command, organized 25 women pilots into the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS). The purpose of the WAFS was to deliver planes from the factory to military bases. A woman had to be between 21 and 35, have a minimum of 500 hours flying time, possess a commercial license, and have at least a 250 horsepower rating. She also had to pass a rigorous physical exam and successfully complete ground school instruction that included navigation, meteorology, radio and Morse code, use of firearms, military courtesy and discipline, military law and instrument training. The 25 original WAFS had an average of 1,100 hours of flying time when they were accepted in the program. Forty women wore the WAFS uniform (which they had to pay for) before it was merged into the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP).

The Merchant Marine is a fleet of U.S. civilian-owned merchant vessels that transport cargo and passengers during peacetime. In time of war, the Merchant Marine can be called upon to deliver troops and supplies for the military. They have no combat role.

Rosie the Riveter was the face of an ad campaign during World War II to encourage women to do their patriotic duty and enter the workforce to fill the gaps left by men who enlisted. The Rosie the Riveter campaign was aimed at recruiting women to work in the munitions industry.

The three groups will be honored at the City's annual tribute to veterans, which takes place at the City-owned park. Veterans Memorial Park features a fountain surrounded by bricks engraved with the names of local service members; the bronze eagle and Purple Heart memorial that were unveiled in 2009; the names of veterans from World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam from the Johnson County Veterans Monument that were added in 2010; and the POW monument added in 2011. The park is located at 298 E. Renfro St., near the corner of Renfro Street and I-35W.