

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our September 2010
Patriot of the Month



**Rose Rena Penn
Ross (Penny)**

Sponsored by:

**Margaret Miller
Chapter
Huntsville, Missouri**



Rosa Rena Penn (Ross) was born in December of 1914, in Madison, Wisconsin. She served in the military from April 1943 until December 1944 at Sweetwater, Texas, Nellis Army Air Base, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Orlando, Florida. Rosa, nicknamed "Penny", was a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) where she flew planes during World War II.

The reason Penny joined the service was because she was fulfilling what she calls "a national duty". She also said, "The boys were over there in Germany fighting and they needed what we could do for them, so that was what inspired me to get this training and be able to relieve some of them of other duties that women couldn't do."

As stated by the President of the United States, the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) courageously answered their country's call in a time of need, while blazing a trail for the brave women who have given and continue to give so much in service to this nation.

In 2009, Penny received a framed copy of her name in the Congressional Record. During the ceremony, Penny said, "I think it's wonderful that the citizens of my country appreciate what has been done for them." Also in 2009, Penny was one of about 300 to receive the WASP Congressional Medal awarded by the President. In addition, Penny earned the following medals:

- World War II Victory Medal
- Honorable Service Lapel Pin
- American Campaign Pin

Penny married Vernon Ross in 1947. They have four children, eight grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Her husband passed away in 1997. Penny and Vernon's love for each other, for their country and dedication to a hard work ethic inspired all of their children.

Penny was a farm/construction wife, mother, and schoolteacher. She taught in Harrisburg, Glasgow, and Moberly, Missouri. In Moberly Penny taught at the Moberly High School, Moberly Vo-Tech, Moberly Community College and the Missouri Training Center for Men before she retired.

Penny was also Executive Director for the Christos Center in Moberly for nineteen years before she retired again.

Penny always made time to follow her grandchildren to all of their school and sports activities. She is a member of the St. Pius X Church and numerous professional and community organizations in Moberly where she was involved in many activities before moving to the Mexico, Missouri Veterans Home.